

Mr Brezhnev in Prague for expected Poland summit talks

Mr Brezhnev is expected to preside over the imminent Warsaw Pact summit meeting in Prague, believed to have been convened to take important decisions about Poland's future. Moscow, which has hitherto shown restraint, is leaving no doubt of its displeasure with the Polish leadership. Fresh troops have joined manoeuvres in and around Poland.



Mr Brezhnev in Prague with Mr Gustav Husak (right), the Czechoslovak party leader.

Warsaw Parliament postponed

from Desha Trevisan
sigra, April 5
President Brezhnev has arrived in Prague ostensibly to attend the Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress which opens tomorrow.
However, it is likely that the Soviet leader will preside over the Warsaw Pact summit which, according to East European sources, has been convened to take important decisions about Poland, a topic causing growing concern in East European capitals.
Rumours of an imminent Warsaw Pact summit were reinforced yesterday by the postponement of the Polish Parliament's session scheduled for tomorrow.
The grounds for the postponement were given in Warsaw as the indisposition of Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister. But there are indications that he and Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish communist Party leader, will be going to Prague and that a Warsaw Pact summit will discuss Poland this week.
All the indications are of a summit of the Warsaw Pact leadership, Moscow, which has hitherto shown some restraint, is leaving no doubt of its displeasure with the Polish leadership.
Concern about Poland is expressed in the East European media and press in daily exerted in despatches voicing anxiety over concessions Moscow and other East European media allege the Polish authorities have made.
Moscow is also increasing the pressure, with the deadline set for the Polish party congress, even though the date has yet to be fixed.
If the congress takes place, it is bound to turn the Polish Communist Party in favour of reforms and to tilt the balance to the reformist wing.
Today the Czechs and the Soviet press have again issued the kind of warnings about Poland which show that Moscow is losing confidence in the Polish leadership.
It expresses bluntly Soviet dissatisfaction over the way the Polish leadership is giving in to demands and although it does not accuse directly of being too weak it says that "real resistance to counter-revolution has not yet been given".
Pravda puts the rhetorical question that the Poles are "asking themselves what next". The answer to that may come from Mr Brezhnev.
Moscow believes Czechoslovakia is a good example of how to deal with a Communist Party under threat. Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops, with the exception of Romania, marched in to prevent Czechoslovakia from carrying out democratic reforms in 1968.
Troop manoeuvres: Fresh troops have joined the Warsaw Pact's manoeuvres in and around Poland over the weekend, the official East German News agency ADN said today. (Reuters reports from Berlin).
It said the exercises, which have been going on for 18 days, centred on "the introduction of fresh reserves from deep inside home territory."
Units of motorized infantry, tanks, missiles and artillery, as well as reconnaissance, engineer and intelligence units were moved into designated areas by railway transport or in military columns, covered by air defence forces. Other forces were brought to the coast by landing craft.
The report gave no indication of how many troops were involved or where they came from. It said the soldiers met Soviet units "from next door", a term used to describe Moscow forces stationed in East Germany.
This indicated that East German and Soviet troops were involved in the new deployment.
ADN said the new troops were given "political and military briefings on their forthcoming battle tasks". This made clear that the Soviet exercise, already the longest Warsaw Pact manoeuvres for more than a decade, will continue for some time.
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Leak inquiry points to a top civil servant

By Peter Hennessy
A Scotland Yard inquiry into the identity of the Ministry of Defence's security authorities, who leaked six classified documents to the Press Association news agency last October has concluded, like the internal Whitehall inquiry that preceded it, that a civil servant of principal rank in the ministry's Navy Department was responsible.
The man has been confronted with the suspicions but has persistently proclaimed his innocence.
The papers dealing with the case are with Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, who is to decide whether to authorize a prosecution under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911. The indications are that the inquiry has failed to furnish sufficient evidence to prosecute.
Nor is it certain that the ministry could dismiss him by using internal disciplinary procedures on the basis of evidence deemed insufficient to secure a conviction in the courts.
The episode, however, represents a minor triumph for Whitehall's security authorities, whose inquiries into leaks rarely prove as conclusive as the one conducted in October and November last year by Mr David Hopkins, director of headquarters security at the Ministry of Defence.
Mr Hopkins was greatly helped by the fact that so few people had received all six documents, which dealt with the size of the defence budget and the Treasury's desire to reduce it.
The police inquiry, which began in November under the leadership of Det Chief Supt Kenneth Merion of Scotland Yard's CI branch, reached the same conclusion as Mr Hopkins's investigation.
The motive which lay behind the principal's alleged action continues to baffle those involved who believe he is the culprit. They have judged him not to be the kind of person who would leak information.
The fact that actual documents were passed to Mr Andrew Webb, a member of the PA's political staff, is unusual, let alone the number involved. The normal method favoured by seasoned leakers is a slow, fragmentary filtration of information, transmitted orally over the lunch table in a manner that disguises its true source, and suggests a number of other potential culprits.
It has been suggested that the principal, if he did leak the papers, must be naive in these matters.

Mr Benn runs into trouble over policy on abolition of Lords

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter
The Queen's role in the creation of peerages is to be debated tonight by Mr Wedgwood Benn and other members of the Labour Party's home policy committee.
Labour's policy makers, who successfully won party acceptance for the abolition of the House of Lords, have run into difficulties over the honours system, particularly where it affects the Sovereign.
The party wants to abolish life peerages, but a paper before the committee admits that there are difficulties about those honours bestowed on the Sovereign's own initiative, and also those recommended by Commonwealth countries.
The paper proposes that the next Labour government should set up a special Commons select committee to examine the difficulties arising from the plans to modernize the Upper Chamber.
Some home policy committee members oppose the idea of a select committee, pointing out that the committee would have to have a partly representative and that, it would be impossible to get the Tories and Liberals to agree.
Mr Benn is still embroiled in the controversy over his declared intention to stand for an electoral college in the Labour Party. There is to be a meeting tonight of the left-wing Tribune group, which is split over his candidature. Last night Tribune members thought that any discussion on that issue might be postponed until next week because only a one-line whip is operating and so there is unlikely to be a full turnout.
Mr Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley and a Tribune member, yesterday declared his support for Mr Benn. He said: "An election will ensure that the priorities of the next Labour government will be discussed more widely within the Labour Party."
Mr Benn declined a plea from Mr Alexander Kison, chairman of the party, to reconsider his decision to stand in an electoral college. Mr Kison on Saturday Mr Benn stated: "Regular elections are the lifeblood of democracy. They give people an opportunity to discuss the issues openly, reach decisions openly and choose the representatives they want to carry them out openly."
Mr Benn said that the Transport and General Workers' Union—of which he is a member—voted at the last Labour conference for the leader and deputy leader to be elected by an electoral college. Mr Benn stated: "If it is now argued that 'party unity' now requires us to abandon the elections under the new procedure, the trade unions and constituency parties will have no say whatever in the choice of the party leadership."

Mounting pressure by union activists for national week-long strike New attempt to end Civil Service pay dispute

By David Felton
Labour Reporter
The Government is planning to call in Civil Service union leaders later this week for talks in an attempt to end the damaging four-week dispute by public-sector workers against a backdrop of mounting pressure from union activists for a national week-long strike.
Union leaders, who have so far resisted the campaign of industrial action to selective strikes involving only 3,000 of the country's 540,000 white-collar civil servants, are also trying to damp down militancy in the Department of Health and Social Security.
Widespread industrial action in that department would lead to payments of unemployment and other social benefits being halted, and while campaign strategists recognize the adverse reaction this would cause, it is not being ruled out.
It is understood that Lord Sainsbury, Lord President of the Council and Minister responsible for the Civil Service, is coming under increasing pressure from ministerial colleagues to take an initiative in the dispute which has caused disruption to collections of income tax and value-added tax.
Mrs Margaret Thatcher has held regular meetings with Lord Sainsbury, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, and there now appears to be agreement in Whitehall that the Government should be seen to be making a move towards ending the dispute.
A team of senior officials headed by Mr Gordon Brown, deputy secretary at the Civil Service Department responsible for pay negotiations, has been working since before the strikes started on a new system for settling Civil Service pay increases.
The draft of a new system, now nearing completion, is expected to include the principles of comparability, arbitration and independent fact-finding upon which the unions have insisted. But it is thought also to contain clauses enabling the Government to retain "political control" over future pay bargaining.
Sir Geoffrey Howe has indicated already that the Government will be seeking a limit of about 8 per cent on pay increases in next year's bargaining round and in view of the Administration's commitment to cash limits, an important negotiating issue with the unions will be to what extent arbitration will be binding.
Union leaders are sceptical that the Government has been able to produce a package that is acceptable and are insisting that there will have to be an increase in the present 7 per cent offer before the action can be called off. The Government is equally determined that the overall limit of 7 per cent for the pay increase cannot be breached.
Attitudes among union members have hardened since the dispute started, although a firm commitment to a new system of bargaining which could be in operation next year might be sufficient to win the support of some of the traditionally moderate unions.
Air traffic controllers, who are members of the institution, are being balloted on whether they are prepared to take industrial action over the Easter holiday period. Their action during the national one-day Civil Service strike on March 9 closed all large airports.
However, there is some doubt as to whether the action will take place over the Easter weekend, and a suggestion being canvassed among union leaders is for a period of prolonged strike action by airport workers at the end of the holiday period.

Lebanon's latest ceasefire ignored

From Tewfiq Mishlad
Beirut, April 5
Despite efforts by the Lebanese Government to stabilize a fragile ceasefire, arranged last night, fighting continued today in Beirut and the Christian town of Zuhbi, 30 miles to the east. At least 30 people were killed and more than 160 injured.
The fighting started last week between Syrian troops of the Arab League-sponsored peace-keeping force, generally known as the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), and the Lebanese right-wing militias led by the powerful Phalangist Party. Unofficial estimates put the total casualties since the new violence began five days ago at 160 killed and about 400 wounded.
At least three ceasefire agreements have been announced since then but none of them has lasted. The latest was reached through negotiations between Mr Elias Hrawi, a Government representative, and Brigadier Sami Al-Khatib, the Lebanese commander of the ADF, on the one hand, and Syrian commanders of the Syrian troops in Lebanon on the other. The ceasefire was supposed to be in effect at the border town of Sbaura on the Beirut-Damascus highway.
The terms of the ceasefire had been agreed in Damascus.
The violence in Lebanon has evoked concern in other countries, particularly in Israel, which announced it would not stand idly by watching the Lebanese Christians being annihilated by the Syrians.
Israeli officials were reported as saying that Syrian troops in Lebanon have crossed the red line "in their attacks on the Christians in Beirut and Zuhbi."
Israeli move: Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said Israel was pressing the United States to use its influence to calm the situation. "We are in constant touch with the United States and are pressing so that the Americans use all their international contacts and other means to cease the murder," he told Israel radio.—Reuters.

Milan arrest a blow to terrorists

From John Earle
Rome, April 5
Milan police today confirmed that yesterday they arrested Signor Mario Moretti, alleged to be one of the top Red Brigades leaders who was still at large, in what is regarded as a major blow against the terrorist organization.
Signor Moretti, a 35-year-old wireless technician, had been described by authorities as the brains behind the kidnapping and killing three years ago in Rome of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat prime minister.
Four people were arrested yesterday—Signor Moretti, Professor Enrico Fenu, a man and a woman who were not named but described as of secondary importance.
Signor Moretti and Professor Fenu, a 42-year-old reader in Italian literature at Genoa University, were on their way out yesterday afternoon to a flat at Via Cavalcanti near the main station, apparently to meet the other two. The police, who had evidently been on their track for several days, surrounded the two men who, though armed, surrendered saying they were "political prisoners".
Signor Virginio Rognoni, the Minister of the Interior, who had flown to Milan in time for the operation, commented: "It has been my best day since becoming a minister."

Soviet President's visit emphasizes crisis, Mr Weinberger says

Our Diplomatic Staff
Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Secretary of Defense, expressed concern in London yesterday over Mr Leonid Brezhnev's visit to Prague.
Mr Brezhnev, he said, had travelled abroad in such a manner for many years. It was the seriousness of the situation in the Eastern bloc that aroused Western fears of intervention in Poland, was also "consistent with a series of unfortunate hypotheses, one of which is that he is lining up support. On the other hand, it is a good thing that there are meetings and people talking."
Mr Weinberger said reports of military activity in Poland and Poland were "continuing to be worrisome."
His arrival in London yesterday he said the military situation in Poland were "not inconsistent with manoeuvres by Soviet troops which were supposed to end last weekend."
He said air supplies, he said, seemed to be more than those required for units involved in an exercise.
He is visiting Britain before going to Bonn for a NATO ministerial meeting tomorrow. There he is expected to discuss American proposals for deploying new nuclear missiles in Europe.
Pentagon officials have expressed concern over what they fear could be troublesome anti-nuclear feelings in Western Europe and Mr Weinberger is anxious that the Polish crisis is not underestimated.
Today he is visiting the British Army base at Cottesmore and the American air base at Lakenheath.
Worst feared: America believes Russian intervention in Poland is not inevitable, but that there is greater danger of it now than ever before, (Patrick Brogan writes from Washington).
State Department officials think President Brezhnev's flight to Prague means a decision has been taken and they fear the worst.

Haig pledge on Middle East

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, focused on the Soviet threat to the Middle East during talks with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem. Israel was said to be more concerned about dangers to its security from the supply of sophisticated weapons to America's Arab allies. In Cairo, earlier, Mr Haig assured President Sadat that Washington remains committed to a Middle East peace settlement. Later this week, leaders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia will press Mr Haig not to downgrade the Palestine issue.
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TV news bias alleged

More than 100 professors, union leaders and MPs have made accusations of bias and distortion in television news bulletins. All three channels are accused of failing to give balanced accounts. Several academic studies have documented bias against the labour movement, they say.
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Lipatti tape found

EMI Records has found a genuine tape of Dinu Lipatti, the late Romanian virtuoso, playing Chopin's first piano concerto. It will replace a recording thought to be by Lipatti but later found to be by a Polish pianist.
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End for Nice casino

The contents of the Palais de la Mediterranée at Nice, one of the most famous casinos in the world, were auctioned at the weekend. The casino closed in 1978.
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Counter-claims on 'vote rigging'

Mr Michael O'Halloran, Labour MP for Islington, North, has appealed to Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, for help after claims and counter-claims of vote-rigging in the constituency party.
His appeal comes after the defection of six local councillors to the Social Democrats last month.
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Union power struggle

Communists and Trotskyists are attempting to gain control of the executive of the Post Office Engineering Union in a power struggle that could have a crucial bearing on the union's political direction and on the outcome of the Labour Party deputy leadership battle.
Page 2

New role for Japan

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Tokyo on a three-day visit during which he is expected to ask Japan to use its economic power to dissuade Moscow from invading Poland. Japan's role in safeguarding north-east Asia will also be raised.
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TUC protest: Week of action over government economic policies

launched by Mr Len Murray
Nationality Bill: Ten thousand demonstrators marched through London in protest.
Page 2

Chief constable inquiry: Members of the West Yorkshire police committee have criticized the way in which investigation was called

Uganda: Shops damaged by explosives and a coffee warehouse set on fire by guerrillas opposed to President Obote.
Page 5

New fear on foot and mouth

By a Staff Reporter
Two more suspected cases of foot-and-mouth disease were investigated on the Isle of Wight yesterday.
They occurred among cattle at Homestead Farm, Porchester, and East Afton Farm, Freshwater. Both are within five miles of the farm originally infected two weeks ago.
The two tests carried out so far have not proved positive, but further investigation is being made.
Restrictions on the movement of cattle, sheep and pigs on the island, which were due to be reduced, will remain in force, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods said last night. But restrictions on movement on the mainland were removed at midnight last night.
Investigations are also being conducted at a farm at Sandown, where some lambs have gone lame. It is not thought that the cause is foot-and-mouth disease but restrictions on the movement of animals have been imposed on the farm as a precaution.
The disease was confirmed on the Isle of Wight two weeks ago when a total of 254 cattle and 369 pigs had to be slaughtered.

SOMALIA REFUGEES

IF THE MONEY RUNS DRY, SHE COULD DIE OF THIRST.

In Somalia today nearly one million people are believed to be on the brink of disaster. Half are feared to be children. Crowded into 32 refugee camps in semi-desert, they are totally dependent on outside help. Now a serious drought threatens their lives. Water is so short that people are having to dig in dried out river beds to get a little extra. If the world doesn't help, children will die of disease from dirty water or from thirst.

Oxfam has already spent £500,000 so far on medical teams and equipment. But soon money will be exhausted. A further £300,000 has just been approved for wells, pumps, pipes and storage tanks. More is desperately needed.

It is critical that the money doesn't run out. We must get this equipment to the camps soon for without water children will die. Your help is vital. Send a donation today. £5, £25 or whatever you can.

Do it now before your next turn on the L.P. Please.

Here is my donation of £_____ for the Somalia refugees.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

On form EA-Somalia Appeal, Room T.12, 224 Bankway Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ.

Boxing promoter held by FBI

Los Angeles, April 5.—The boxing promoter, Mr Harold Smith, a missing figure in an alleged \$21m (£9.5m) bank fraud, was arrested here yesterday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.
Mr Smith, chairman of the Muhammad Ali Professional Sports Organization, was accused of making a false statement on a passport application, and will be formally charged tomorrow. His organization paid Ali, the former world heavyweight champion, for the use of his name in promoting sports events.—Reuters.

Doctors say Mr Reagan is alert and in good spirits

Dr Patrick Brogan
hington, April 5
President Reagan continues to recover from his wounds in the George Washington University hospital, while his assailant, Hinckley, is in the hands of government psychiatrists in California.
The daily spin on the president stated he ran an "elevated to create" temperature yesterday evening, but that it was normal again this morning.
His lungs are not entirely free of fluid, but he is said to be alert and in good spirits.
Hinckley's parents issued a statement yesterday saying that they were praying for President and the three victims of the shooting.
The statement added: "We simply ask that you realize that John is a sick boy, and that you give him the benefit of the doubt until all the true facts concerning his mental condition are known."
Mr Hinckley is being examined by psychiatrists in a special hospital in North Carolina. He has been judged competent to stand trial, but that event is a long way off. The various examinations could take some months.
Bush briefing: Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, today briefed the President on the mounting tension in Poland. His visit lasted 10 minutes.—Reuters.
Business as normal, page 4

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Struggle over Post Office union control

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

A power struggle is taking place inside the Post Office Engineering Union which might have a crucial bearing on its political direction and the outcome of the Labour Party's deputy leadership battle.

Communists and Trotskyists, campaigning together under the banner of the broad-left, are attempting to capture control of the union's executive, which has 23 members. They have nine supporters on the executive so far, but three would tip the balance in their favour.

Success would switch the union's support from moderate Labour Party policies to those of the left wing, including backing for the campaign to get Mr Wedgwood Benn elected deputy party leader in place of Mr Denis Healey at this year's party conference. Mr Benn is to address a broad left meeting at the union's annual conference at Blackpool in June.

Moderates in the union, which has 132,000 members, are worried at the pace of the broad left campaign and the direction it is taking. They quote a recent article in the left-wing *Socialist Challenge* which stated: "The Post Office Engineering Union has the power to cripple the City of London, the banks, finance houses, big companies and government departments. But the right-wing majority on the union executive refuses to take up the challenge."

Mr Bryan Stanley, the

union's general secretary and a former member of the Labour Party's national executive committee, says in the latest issue of the union's journal: "In recent weeks a number of members have approached me to ask what I am doing to fight against what they regard as the attempts of extremists to take over control of the union and to take over control of the Labour Party."

"My answer will always be: if you do not agree with a particular line being adopted either by individuals, branches, or the union as a whole, then fight within the organization to establish your point of view."

Mr B. Stanley adds: "To be frank, it is useless for members to complain to me about decisions taken at branch meetings when they themselves do not attend those meetings. There is only one way to make sure that your opinions are taken into account and influence the policy-making process, that is to attend branch meetings."

Moderates on the executive are apprehensive about whether they can back the attempt by the broad left to take control. Those seeking re-election are: Mr John Scott-Garner, the president; Mr Fred Feltham, vice-president; Mr Phil Evers, Mr Patrick Lee, Mr Derek Dodd, Mr Michael Ronaldson, Mr Gordon Duncan, Mr Leonard Gillard, Mr Elwyn Jones, Mr Tony Field, Mr Kenneth Thomas, Mr Bryan Harper, Mr Jack Walker and Mr Joe Lane.

Islington, North, MP appealing to Mr Foot for help after defection of councillors to the Social Democrats

Labour leader's vote-rigging claims denied by left wing

By Ian Bradley

It is no coincidence that the highest defection so far of Labour councillors to the Social Democrats should have been in the London Borough of Islington.

The troubled state of the Islington North constituency Labour Party, which led six councillors to resign last month, has resulted in Mr Michael O'Halloran, the local MP, making a plea for help to Mr James Foot, the party leader.

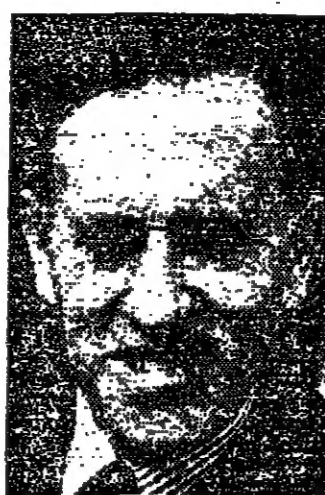
He wants the party's national executive committee to investigate the circumstances in which left-wingers gained control of the constituency party's general management committee at a meeting held in two parts last month.

Mr O'Halloran accuses the left of using false addresses in claiming enrolments to the Labour Party, rigging ballots for delegates to the committee and subjecting other members to personal abuse.

His opponents, who deny the charges, accuse his supporters of practising similar tactics over the past 10 years or more and of bringing in bogus union delegates to pack last month's meeting.

Mr Mark Van de Weyer, a councillor who stands between the two factions, believes that the state of the Islington North party like ours and getting to the party nationally.

"The recent commission of inquiry has failed to provide any means for sorting out the problems of a polarized local party like ours and getting to grips with the packing of meetings and the proper affiliation of unions," he said. "The troubles of the party derive from the nature of the



Mr Michael O'Halloran: "Moderates abused".

borough. Before six Social Democrats defected recently the council had 50 Labour and two Conservative members. As a result, the Labour group comprises a broad spectrum of opinion and there are wide differences of political persuasion within it.

It is divided into two main factions. The larger one is made up of predominantly working-class, middle-aged councillors, locally born and bred, who are conservative in their outlook and policies. The opposition comes from younger, middle-class socialists who moved into Islington with the gentrification of the borough in the 1960s.

There is little love lost between the two groups. Mr James Evans, the mayor of the borough and one of the defectors to the Social Democrats, said: "We used to have a lot

of old people come to Labour for years. They had come for years although they did not always have the education to put over their views. The middle-class student types laughed at them and mocked them, and so they did not want to come."

In the old days we had meetings and then went off to the pub afterwards. These new people started coming in with sandwiches and flasks and the meetings went on until two or three in the morning."

But Mrs Margaret Watson, a councillor, said: "The old group are not very bright. They are also very right-wing, even in Tory terms. They have cut the housing programme, the grants to voluntary organizations and the provision for under-fives, because they believe that mums should sit at home all day."

"To see those things destroyed overnight creates bitterness. I think the main issue that divides us is public expenditure. We believe in high public spending."

The balance between the two factions has seen-sawed over the past 10 years. In 1968 a fresh Conservative victory enabled the middle-class socialists to infiltrate Islington South and Central constituency Labour parties and they dominated the council elected in 1971. The north however remained firmly in the grip of the so-called "Irish old guard" who provide Mr O'Halloran's main source of support.

In 1974 the younger, middle-class element succeeded in making it clear that the north would be the council elected in that year had a left wing majority. But in 1978 Mr O'Halloran's



Mr James Evans: Old members "mocked".

supporters regained control of the north and, until the defection of the Social Democrats, the balance of the Labour group in the present council was 27 "old guard" and 23 younger left-wingers.

The old guard accuse the left of entryist tactics and of manipulating council policy between 1974 and 1978 to help their takeover of the party.

Mr Michael Sullivan, press officer of the left-wing dominated constituency party, agrees that the left have progressively gained control of wards, but denies any underhand tactics. He says that the left has simply recruited new members and, at 1,300, the party has one of the highest membership figures in the country.

The events of the last few months represent the culmination of the left's takeover.

Their first victory was to secure the nomination of Mr Steven Bundred, a left-winger, as candidate in next month's Greater London Council elections.

The two-part annual general meeting of the constituency party last month, at which the left finally gained control of the committee, has produced a host of allegations on both sides. Mr O'Halloran's supporters say that members of the Militant tendency were involved in deliberately flouting the party rules.

Mr Sullivan, who is a former Socialist Unity candidate, says that out of 100 people on the new committee, not one is a supporter of the Militant tendency. He accuses Mr O'Halloran's supporters of trying to manipulate the meeting by bringing along nine "false" delegates from the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

Four of the delegates, including Mr Morgan Lear, an architect and the former secretary of the party, and Miss Bernadette O'Halloran, the MP's daughter, who is a nurse, said that they belonged to the 1/725 branch of the union, and the other five to the 1/723 branch.

Yet a letter from the union's regional organizer, of which *The Times* has a copy, says that the first branch is affiliated to the Twickenham Labour Party and the second had no affiliation fees to Islington north party for 1980 or 1981.

Mr Lear says that both he and Miss O'Halloran are members of the 1/723 branch and that both 1/723 and 1/725 are bona fide branches affiliated to Islington north. He says that the left have had "false"

delegates at meetings, claimed that there were delegates from the 1/725 branch on the basis of a letter from the regional organizer showing that there were only 50 members in the Islington constituency. Mr Lear also says that he has seen a minibus from London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, registered at local address, at meetings of the north party.

The Labour Party were laid down when assumed that people would manipulate them, he says. "Now that people are not fair, there are no more to be new rules."

He suggests that of unions and organizations each have only one delegate to the local party and that should be much tighter discipline qualifications.

Mr Van de Weyer that the present system satisfactory. At the time any union can affiliate its constituency Labour party basis of one delegate for 100 members. The Union of Miners is affiliated to Islington north although as I know, it only has one member living in the constituency, and that is Mr Bundred. It happens to be a delegate."

Meanwhile, both sides agreed that the left's take-over of Islington north is a fact and that Mr O'Halloran's state for certain, but he is not sure when he comes up for selection by the local party is also agreed that the council elected next year will have a clear left-wing majority.

Mr Murray starts TUC week of protest

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

A national week of protest against the Government's economic and social policies was launched on Saturday by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and will continue with marches, rallies and lobbies of Parliament.

A key aim is to win publicity and support for a march against unemployment from Liverpool to London starting on May 1. About 3,000 trade unionists were estimated to have marched through Newcastle upon Tyne on Saturday and at a rally later, Mr Murray said he believed Mrs Margaret Thatcher would "turn" as public opinion changed.

"Even though the scene is black with factories closing day after day we believe the tide is beginning to turn," he said. Mrs Marie Patterson, chairman of the TUC's women's advisory committee, told a rally in Newcastle yesterday that women were being the most badly affected by government policies.

Public spending cuts and reductions in welfare services meant that the burden of caring for the elderly and the young was falling on women. "This Government is attempting to drive women back into the home," she told the rally. Included in the lobbies of Parliament planned during this week are those by transport unions today, trade unionists from the North tomorrow, and printing unions, on Wednesday. The culmination of the week will be marches and rallies in six provincial centres on Saturday.



Police escorting demonstrators protesting at the nationality Bill in London yesterday.

10,000 join nationality Bill march

By Lucy Hodges

About 10,000 people, mainly of Asian origin, marched through central London yesterday to protest at the nationality Bill, which they said was racist and would make them second-class citizens.

The demonstration, organized

by the Campaign against Racist Laws, ended with a rally in Trafalgar Square which was addressed by 18 speakers, mainly from ethnic minority organizations.

Miss Jo Richardson, MP for Barking, who was there to represent the Labour Party, said the Bill had caused deep anger and confusion in the country. It is divisive and is based on immigration, she said. "It is a racist Bill and Labour is pledged to oppose it."

Mr Ian Martin, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,

said that people did not need to know the details of the Bill to see that it was racist. "It will leave thousands of people effectively stateless and will take away rights which black people have already."

Mr Rudy Narayan, the West Indian Standing Conference, declared that the protest showed black people were on the march. "We are on the move and will fight in this country against parliamentary thugs and racists."

The police were not taking any chances yesterday. They were present in large numbers.

In brief

Ulster rallies end in violence

Gangs of youths stoned police in Belfast and Londonderry last night at the end of republican parades in support of the Maze prison hunger strike.

In Belfast between 50 and 60 youths stoned Springfield Road police station and dispersed after rubber bullets were fired. There were two arrests.

In Londonderry there were similar scenes and at both rallies census forms were set alight.

MP seeks talks on Moonies' status

Mr David Mellor, Conservative MP for Wandsworth, Putney, wants an urgent meeting with the Charity Commissioners to discuss the continuing charitable status of the Moonies, or Deacons of the Church, the religious cult founded by a self-proclaimed guru who has converted and broken up families.

Leading article, page 13

News back on the air

News bulletins were back yesterday on RTE, the Irish Republic's state-backed television and radio service, after a break of almost three weeks. Agreements were reached in a dispute between management and journalists over the suspension of a journalist.

Church to bank vault

A painting, believed to be by the Florentine master Andrea del Sarto, is now locked in a bank vault after hanging in St Paul's church, near St Austell, for a quarter of a century. The work will be studied by experts at Christie's.

Census forms in

Britons filled in about twenty million forms yesterday ready for collection today by the 100,000 census enumerators. The census is costing more than £10m and the completed forms will be stored on 121 miles of shelving in Bootle, Merseyside, ready for analysis.

Journalists walk out

More than 80 members of the National Union of Journalists employed by Eastern Counties Newspapers in East Anglia have stopped work in support of 17 colleagues at the *East Anglian Daily Times* newspaper at Ipswich who face redundancy.

Editor to judge contest

Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Times*, is to be one of the judges of a competition organized by Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, to select the editor of the provincial newspaper which has best served the community.

Off to the high life

Mr James Cook, aged 37, a window cleaner from Herrick Road, north London, flew from Heathrow airport yesterday to reach the Empire State Building's 86th floor. He had won the dream of a lifetime in a contest run by a vodka firm.

Bucks Fizz's high note

Britain's pop group Bucks Fizz are on the road to commercial success after their close win in the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday. Their song, "Making Your Mind Up", is already high in Britain's top ten.

Flights cancelled

Some services today from Alderbury Airport, Northern Ireland, have been cancelled because of an expected strike by 240 ground staff. The men are protesting at a pay offer of 71 per cent.

Irish hurlers killed

Three members of an Irish hurling team from Waterford were killed and eight others injured when their minibus was involved in a collision with a marked lorry in Co Kilkenny on Saturday night.

Fierce political battle as parties try to win Merseyside poll

From John Chartres
Liverpool

An inconclusive result from the Merseyside County Council election is being predicted by both Labour and Liberal Party leaders, who are challenging the present Conservative control in one of Britain's most politically sensitive areas.

A heavy anti-government vote in next month's county elections is expected throughout the north-west, because of the bad effects of the recession in the region.

That is likely to be most marked in the Merseyside contest, where unemployment in Liverpool has reached nearly 16 per cent. Labour Party officials, whose forecasts have proved reliable in the past, believe they will regain control of Greater Manchester and Cheshire, with Lancashire and Cumbria remaining in Conservative hands with slightly reduced majorities.

Merseyside remains something of an enigma because of the continued vitality of the Liberals and the emergence of the social democratic movement. Labour needs to win 25 seats in the 99 contests to obtain overall control of Merseyside County Council. Local Labour Party officials are reasonably confident of winning 23 seats, but say it will take hard work and good luck to exceed that.

Sir Trevor Jones, leader of the Liverpool Liberals and of the city council, forecasts between 40 and 45 Labour seats,

25 to 30 Liberal, and 20 to 25 Conservative.

Mr Douglas Robinson, the Conservative agent in Liverpool, predicts that there will be some losses for his party, they will not be nearly as bad as many expected.

The prospect of a "hung" Merseyside County Council, with Labour the biggest single party but without overall control, is causing dismay in some quarters. Liverpool has suffered under this sort of line-up for several years with a vast backlog and unfinished business accruing, and an 8.30 pm curfew having to be imposed.

Sir Trevor Jones claims, however, that that is not necessarily a bad thing. "It makes for true democracy," he said.

Mr Paul Mahon, who is due to defend the Pictou ward of Edbe Hill, is going to fight as a joint Liberal-Social Democrat banner. He is issuing leaflets and posters carrying the portraits of Mr David Steel and Mrs Shirley Williams with the words: "A new team for Britain."

Mr Mahon, aged 30, defends his stance by saying he believes there is only room for one "third party" and that if the two do not work together they will cancel each other's efforts. Most Merseyside politicians agree that the real battle will be fought in the city of Liverpool, and that the big question is where will the anti-government votes go.

The final line-up of Liberal candidates will not be known until nominations close today.

GLC election, page 12

Parents to look at small print from SDP

By Our Education Correspondent

Parents should look at small print of the Social Democrats' programme for education because it could be worse than that of Labour, Mr I. Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, told Young Conservatives Brighton yesterday.

In a speech last week Shirley Williams had ob to the gap between the present and maintained schools. Yet that gap widened by the last government's abolition of "bridges" of the direct schools which had opportunities of educational mobility for thousands of working children.

The only other bridge Mrs Williams could now suggest was the maintenance of pupil exchange between the maintained private sectors. Those rarely been successful.

Certainly the suggestion pared badly with the Conservative Government's introduction of the assisted places scheme which gave children from poorest homes opportunities to enter some of the superb academic independent schools in Britain.

The Social Democrats also apparently committed comprehensive secondary education, irrespective of its parents' wishes, and phasing out of sixth form long one of the most successful parts of British education.

HAVE A CARE FOR THE EIGHTIES...



We're thankful that MHA residents live to such a great age. We care for 1,100 elderly men and women whose average age is eighty-six. Inevitably they become more and more frail as the years pass and this means extra special care to ensure they continue to enjoy life to the fullest extent possible. Please help us to find the money we need to meet the extra cost. Inflation hits us hard. Reduced grants from public funds set us further back financially. MHA needs your generous help more than ever for the sake of these elderly folk.

In this the International Year of Disabled People, please remember the frail MHA residents by sending a special Easter gift to: Mr. Hon. George Thomas MP, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Dept T, Freepost, London SW1P3BR.

METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED

A Methodist Foundation which cares for 1,100 residents, not just Methodists, in 35 Homes throughout Britain.

General Secretary: Brian I. Callin MA, BSc, Pastoral Secretary: Rev. Norman J. Richardson

11 Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P3BD

Chancellor supports consumer body

From Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent
Swansea

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressed the National Consumer Congress in Swansea yesterday, sought to repair the damage to relations between the consumer movement and the Government caused when Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, addressed the congress last year.

Mrs Oppenheim had rebuked the congress for concerning itself with economic and taxation policy, and urged that it should turn its attention "back to the marketplace". Sir Geoffrey, who was Britain's first Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs in the early 1970s, said yesterday that a "lively, irrepressible consumer movement" would always be needed.

He told delegates that in last year's debate on economic policy the consumer congress had shown an awareness of the political pitfalls and had taken the trouble "to identify the areas where consumers and consumer organizations have a special knowledge and expertise to contribute".

He added: "Speaking for myself, I am sure you were right. Many of the 364 economists who expounded themselves and their profession to such ridicule a week ago must now be wishing they had shown a similar restraint."

After Mrs Oppenheim's rebuke, the National Consumer Council did little work on general economic policy issues last year.

The congress chairman, Mr Michael Shanks, made clear at this year's meeting that it was intended now to return to the subject and, in particular, pricing policy in the nationalized industries and unemployment. "If unemployment continues to grow at the rate it has been doing, I fear for the social fabric of our society," he said.

Mr Shanks claimed that "neglect of the interests of consumers has contributed to the country's present economic state. Unless industry provides products that people want at prices they are prepared to pay, economic recovery is out of the question. The consumer and the consumer's interest should be at the heart of economic policy and industrial practice."

Shorter hours for judges

Judges at the Central Criminal Court will get a cut in their working hours later this month, when a temporary scheme to speed up justice is ended.

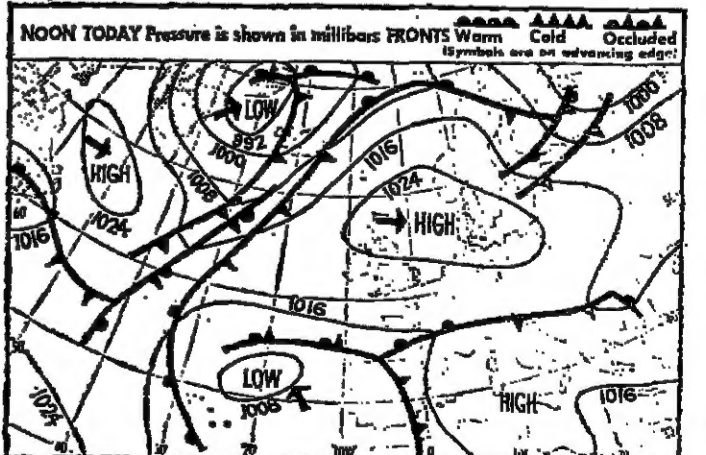
For the past six months they have started work half an hour earlier in the 25 courts to help clear a backlog of 1,200 cases. The backlog is down to fewer than 800, and the early starts

are to end amid unofficial sighs of relief.

Starting court business at 10 instead of 10.30 am gave the judges less time for work in their chambers, and pretrial interviews with clients in cells were made more difficult.

The extra time system was started after a plea last year from Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, to cut delays in hearing lengthy cases.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 6.25 am. Sun sets: 7.42 pm. Moon rises: 7.42 am. Moon sets: 9.59 pm.

First Quarter: April 11. Lighting up: 8.12 pm to 5.53 am.

High Water: London Bridge, 3.34 am, 7.6m; 4.04 pm, 7.5m. Avonmouth, 9.24 am, 14.4m; 9.40 pm, 14.1m. Dover, 12.39 am, 7m; 12.51 pm, 6.5m. Hull, 8.12 am, 7.3m; 8.23 pm, 8.2m. Liverpool, 12.56 am, 9.8m; 1.14 pm, 10.1m. 1st=0.304m. 2nd=3.280m.

High will move slowly E across N Scotland.

Forecasts from 6 am to midnight: London, Midlands, SE central S. England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy but some sunny intervals developing. scattered showers later: wind E, light or moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F).

East Anglia, Borders, E. NE, central N. England, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Rather cloudy, a little drizzle in places at first, a little rain, more brighter or

showers later: wind E, light or moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE veering E, light to moderate; sea, slight.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind E, light to moderate; sea, slight.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Alps: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Channel: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Devon: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Dorset: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. East Angles: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Essex: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Gloucestershire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Herefordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Hertfordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Kent: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Lancashire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Leicestershire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Lincolnshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. London: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Merseyside: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Norfolk: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Northamptonshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Northumberland: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Nottinghamshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Oxfordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Devon: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Dorset: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. East Angles: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Essex: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Gloucestershire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Herefordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Hertfordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Kent: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Lancashire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Leicestershire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Lincolnshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. London: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Merseyside: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Norfolk: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Northamptonshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Northumberland: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Nottinghamshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Oxfordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Devon: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Dorset: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. East Angles: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Essex: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Gloucestershire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Herefordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Hertfordshire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Kent: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Lancashire: c 10, d 11, f 12, r 13, s 14. Leicestershire: c 10

Fresh attempt soon to recover bodies from capsized oil rig

By John Huxley

A fresh attempt will be made soon to recover more than 30 bodies believed to be entombed in the Alexander L. Kielland oil rig which capsized more than a year ago with the loss of 123 lives.

A previous operation to salvage the rig, now lying on its side in a Norwegian fjord, was abandoned last autumn. Doubts were expressed about the safety of proceeding with the venture, mounted by an Anglo-Norwegian consortium including a Southampton company, SD Marine.

News of the new salvage attempt coincides with the publication of an official report on the accident, in which more than thirty British died. It is highly critical of the design, construction and safety procedures of the rig. Control agencies are also taken to task for failing to identify the fault responsible for causing one of the rig's five legs to collapse in a heavy storm in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.

Official anguish at the content of the report, due to be formally presented to the Justice Ministry later today, has been compounded by continuing uncertainty over the future of the rig.

The Norwegian Government is pledged to recovering the bodies from the rig, which is now owned by a pool of insurance companies. Earlier this year, the structure was declared a loss and its then owners, Stevaner, Drilling, offered £250 compensation. Of this sum, two-thirds was carried by the London reinsurance market.

Nepura, a subsidiary of the Swedish marine services group Brostrom, has been asked to submit new proposals for salvage. These will have to be approved by the Norwegian authorities.

The British Department of Energy and rig operators working in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea are waiting to see the full report of the Norwegian commission of inquiry before deciding whether modifications are required on structures similar in design to the Alexander L. Kielland.

According to Lloyd's Register of Shipping, the London certification society, there are 11 such Pentagon-type rigs. Of these Lloyd's has covered nine, and its Norwegian counterpart, Det Norske Veritas, the remainder. An official said that after the Kielland disaster, all similar rigs were given extensive checks.

In the coming weeks, most attention is likely to be focused on three Pentagons, five-legged, operating in the British sector of the North Sea. They are Dikilyn 96, operated by Amoco; Dikilyn 97, operated by Union Oil; and Pentagon 84, operated by Total. Pentagon 84 is being moved to the other two on the Heather and Hutton North West oilfields, respectively.

Inspections were made by both the companies and by Department of Energy officials after the Kielland disaster, and the three rigs were pronounced safe. There were unconfirmed reports at the weekend that the Union Oil rig is being modified in line with changes recommended by the Norwegian authorities.

Yesterday, the Department of Energy said it was unable to comment until it had studied the Norwegian report. Although it has been satisfied by checks carried out previously, it is clearly prepared to review safety procedures and requirements.

Modifications have been carried out to a fourth rig, British Petroleum's Drillingmaster, now being used in the Buchan field. BP commissioned an independent inquiry into the safety of the rig by Professor Sir Hugh Ford, then professor of Imperial College, London, and subsequently incorporated suggested improvements to strengthen the rig during work to convert it for production purposes being carried out at Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

'Millions wasted' on tonsil operations

From Nicholas Timmins

Lancaster

Ruge savings could be made in the National Health Service if doctors spent more time assessing the real benefits of the treatment they give against the costs, a former government adviser on resource distribution in the service said at the weekend.

At present millions were still spent on operations to remove tonsils and adenoids from which few children really benefited, while further savings could be made by stopping ineffective attempts to cure lung cancer, Dr Malcolm Forsythe, regional medical officer to the South-west Thames Regional Health Authority, said.

That would allow resources to be freed to develop the "Cludella" services, such as care for the mentally ill and handicapped.

The told the British Medical Association's junior members on Saturday that, despite the alleged priority given to the services since 1976, spending in hospitals on mentally ill patients had fallen from 13 per cent of NHS expenditure that year to under 12.5 per cent in 1979-80.

Community health spending had remained constant instead of rising as planned, while expenditure on the care of the mentally handicapped had risen only 0.5 per cent instead of 1.8 per cent a year.

It is quite clear that these national objectives have not been reached," he said. "I use the word 'clear' because something will be done by the small district health authorities. It is quite clear that the delegation of responsibility by government in this matter will inevitably mean that it will not accept any blame for the severe decisions that will follow the inquiry into a psychiatric mentally handicapped hospital, and every region has got its volcanses."

Private work in NHS: Private practice should be brought back to the National Health Service.

Private link with state coach operator

Michael Bailey, transport correspondent

The first link between a private coach operator and the state-owned National Express is announced yesterday. Whittle Coaches, of Kidderminster, which operates a coach fleet in the West Midlands, is to join National Express in a three-hourly service twice between Wolverhampton and London. Fares will be 20 single and 15 return.

The move looks at first sight like a severe blow to the private sector. The British coachways consortium got off to a flying start with its inter-city fares after the new Transport Act in October. But Mr Ronald White, chairman of Whittle, who is so this year's president of a Confederation of Passenger Transport Operators, said yesterday there was nothing fatal in the move. The deal is strictly "practical and commercial".

Mr John Birk, National Express, said several more deals would be in the pipeline. British Rail claim not to be affected by the expansion on each travel. But they have it on some remarkable bar-fares to meet the new competition.

Dog cart, Rolls-Royce and ice-cream van under the hammer together

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

One of the earliest cars to be built commercially, a Benz 3hp Velo dog cart dating from around 1893-94, was sold by Sotheby's in Bristol on Saturday for £19,000 (estimate £20,000 to £22,000). It belonged to the same aristocratic Italian family since it was new and was sent for sale by the original owner's grandson.

Sotheby's auction of vintage cars, which is part of the South-West Classic Car Show, held in the Bristol Exhibition Complex, and the message was that people may like cars but they lack the money to buy them. The sale total was £330,150 with 60 per cent unsold, the most important failure being a 1921 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Tourer unsold at £37,000 (estimate, £45,000 to £50,000).

The strongest competition was for a 1966 Lotus Climax 33 GP racing car built for Jim Clark the world champion, who was killed at the wheel of another car in 1968. The Carster Castle Motor Museum, Norfolk, paid £36,000 (estimate £20,000 to £25,000) to secure the car for its collection.

There was another very early

Police chief inquiry procedure criticized

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds

Some members of the police committee of West Yorkshire County Council are complaining that they were left in the dark over a decision to call in Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, to investigate complaints against the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Ronald Gregory, and other unnamed senior police officers.

The council's labour group is to be asked whether it considers a special meeting of the police committee should be called to hear a report about allegations against the police officers, and to consider whether action by the three appointed members of the police committee in mounting the investigation was the right thing to do.

Mr Raymond Graham, a member of the police committee and chairman of the Labour group, said last night: "My personal view is that a special meeting should be called simply to discover what is going on. The last meeting of the police committee was on March 3, and no mention was made of any complaint against the police."

"I do not know whether the three appointed members knew of the complaint at that time, but even if they did not, allegations against senior officers, including the chief constable, are a sufficiently serious matter to call a special meeting."

The three police committee members appointed to take urgent decisions between meetings are the chairman, Mr Kenneth Davidson, the vice-chairman, Mr Ronald Warren, and the chairman, Mr Ronald Darrington.

None of the appointed members was prepared to expand on their original statement that, after discussion with the Home Office, they had decided to call in Sir Philip. It is understood, though not confirmed, that a complaint had been made about the police investigation into a series of deaths after which Mr Peter Williams, a lorry-driver, was charged with murder.

Another member of the police committee, Mr Michael Parkinson, said: "The three appointed members have acted within their powers, but morally, in my view, they have acted wrongly."

"They have not named the other officers involved with the result that every senior policeman in the force is under the shadow of suspicion."

One reason why the appointed members may have taken the action they did, it is said, is the closing date for nominations in the county council elections, and all committees, including the police committee, comprising 24 county councillors, and magistrates go into a state of limbo until after the election.

Mr Benn backs call for series to investigate alleged anti-union bias Distortion in television news bulletins claimed

By Brian MacArthur

Accusations of bias and distortion in television news bulletins have been made against the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority by more than a hundred professors, trade union leaders and MPs.

They suggest that all three channels are failing to present balanced programmes in a letter to Mr George Howard, chairman of the BBC, Sir Ian Trethowan, director general, Lord Thomson of Monifich, chairman of the IBA, and Sir Brian Young, director general.

The signatories include Mr Wedgwood Benn and 23 other Labour MPs and 73 other general secretaries, including among them Mr Mostyn Evans (transport workers), Sir John Boyd (engineering workers), Mr Joseph Gormley (miners), Mr David Bassett (general and municipal workers), and Mr Alan Sapper and Mr D. A. Hearn, leaders of the two main broadcasting unions.

The 20 academics include Professor Stuart Hall, of the Open University, Professor Stuart Hood (Goldsmiths College), and once deputy head of BBC News, Professor Joan Robinson and Professor Raymond Williams both of Cambridge and Mr E. P. Thompson, the historian.

They say that bias against the trade union and Labour movement in public broadcasting has been documented by several academic studies, including the work of the Leicester University Mass Communications Centre and the Birmingham University Centre for Cultural Studies.

"Recently the appearance of Bad News and More Bad News by the Glasgow University Media Group [two books criticising television news coverage] has again highlighted an enormous gap between the obligations of the broadcasters to give a balanced account and what they actually do."

"We request that there be a televised presentation of these issues in a series of programmes in which this evidence can be shown in detail."

The Glasgow University group has been criticising BBC and Independent Television News for the past six years, arguing that much of what appears as balanced and factual news reporting on television is produced from a highly partial viewpoint.

In the first four months of 1975 there were 17 occasions

when somebody appeared to argue against the Wilson government's policy of restraining wages at a solution to the economic crisis, against 257 occasions when somebody argued in favour of them, its research showed.

Mr Greg Philp, one of the authors of More Bad News, says: "The mass of empirical evidence that the Glasgow group has gathered suggests that the television news is organized around a narrow economic and political viewpoint. This goes beyond saying that television news favours certain individuals and institutions by giving them more time and status."

"The nature of the analysis is deeper than this. In the end it relates to the picture of society in general and industrial society in particular that television news constructs. This or its most damaging includes the laying of blame for society's industrial and economic problems at the door of the work force."

"This is done in the face of contradictory evidence which when it appears, is either ignored, smothered, or at worst, treated as if it supports the narrow views utilized by the producers of news."

Confidential minutes of BBC

News and Current Affairs meetings obtained by the group show that the BBC is taking accusations of bias made by Mr Benn seriously. At a meeting on January 13 this year, Mr John Simpson, political editor, described a conversation with Mr Benn.

The minutes say: "Mr Benn had restated his well-known criticism of the BBC's coverage of politics, claiming it concentrated on personalities rather than policies; that the BBC traditionally inhibited the old centre ground of the man of good will and intent; and that it portrayed this centre ground as being held by people like Winston Churchill, Ted Heath and Shirley Williams who were the good guys and girls."

"John Simpson said he had countered these suggestions vigorously but he had wondered whether there was not a grain of truth in some of them."

At the end of the meeting, Mr David Holmes, chief assistant to the director general, said that Mr Benn had had a complete programme to himself and his ideas on Westminster in the early 1970s. "He had had numerous other invitations to broadcast but would not accept them unless the conditions were exactly to his liking."

Anger over TV look at Broadmoor

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC has been asked to make a broadcast apology for a reference to Broadmoor in a trailer last Friday for a series about the special institution that starts on Thursday.

Special permission to film inside Broadmoor was given to a Nationwide team by the Department of Health and Social Security. But the Matthew Trust, which represents the interests of mental offenders and the victims of violent crime, has taken exception to a BBC reference to the institution's "700 patients judged to be criminally insane".

It is seeking a guarantee from the BBC that no such references will be made in the series: its chairman, Mr Peter Thompson, said 19 per cent of Broadmoor's inmates had no criminal records. Since it became a special hospital, the people there had been patients, not lunatics, and should not be referred to as criminally insane.

If the trust did not have the guarantee by today it would apply for a High Court injunction to prevent the series.

The Press Council upheld a previous complaint by the trust against a newspaper after the description "criminally insane" was used about Broadmoor patients.

The BBC said last night that neither could be done until today when the matter would be examined by Nationwide.



Driving force: Police officers inspecting an air-bagged motor cycle with safety air bags at yesterday's BP Bulldog Competition at the Police Driving School, in Hendon, north-west London. Inside is Martin Aspland from Pentrehafof Comprehensive School.

Swansea. Fellow pupils designed the air-bags to inflate automatically in a serious accident; the idea won them a place in yesterday's finals. Edgborough Comprehensive School in Berkshire won the competition.

Tory party group opposes child benefit switch

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government is under strong pressure from within its own ranks to drop proposals to force most mothers to switch from weekly payments to monthly payments for child benefit.

The general purposes committee of the Conservative Party has made a special plea that all mothers should be given the choice of retaining weekly payments.

The committee's position has been conveyed in a private letter to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services. A note appended to it, apparently by a member of Mr Jenkin's private office, says the approach must be "considered a very weighty one".

The proposals were made late last year after a report by Sir Derek Rayner, the Minister of State for Social Services, recommended that most child benefit payments should be made weekly to reduce administrative costs.

After objections from the select committee on social services, the Government announced

in a Green Paper last year that it would widen the group of mothers who could keep weekly payments, but that most would have to switch to monthly payments in 1982. Since then the Government has delayed making a decision.

So far 550 individuals, organizations and local authorities have responded to the Green Paper. Most have expressed doubts that the switch would be acceptable.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, last week issued a list of 45 organizations which had said that a switch to four-weekly payments should be optional for all parents.

The proposals would save about £50m in benefit money in the year the switch was made, and about £33m annually in administrative costs. Most of the objections to forcing a switch to monthly payments are based on worries that many families could not manage without weekly payments.

There has been a sharp increase in the numbers of mothers cashing child benefit every week in the last 18 months.

End of national insurance payments sought

By Our Social Services

Correspondent

A call for the abolition of national insurance contributions is made today, the day higher rates for employees begin. The new rates will mean the highest earners have to pay £4.35 a week more, with a new maximum weekly contribution of £15.50 for those earning £200 a week or more.

Some low paid workers will no longer have to pay contributions, but those earning £26 a week will face a national insurance bill of £2.09 a week if their earnings rise by £1. The new rates result from the 1 per cent increase in employees' contributions announced last November by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In a report today, the Low Pay Unit argues that the entire contribution system is regressive, with the poorest workers paying proportionately seven times as much into the fund as the richest. That is because contributions to pay have to be paid on earnings above a ceiling set for this tax year at £200 a week.

In addition, some employers avoid paying their share of contributions according to the report. In some cases employers are dismissing full-time workers and replacing them with part-timers whose earnings are too low to bring them into the contribution net. Other employers are cutting wage rates or working hours to avoid paying contributions.

The report suggests that employers should have a national insurance contributions combined with income tax, and that benefits should be paid according to need. Employers' contributions should be replaced by separate tax on security payroll tax related to the total wage bill, with special exemptions for small companies.

Insuring Poverty at Work (Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG) 95p.

Royal wedding critics ask for red flag protest

From Our Correspondent

Sheffield

Labour Party activists in the Northampton ward of Sheffield want to fly the red flag over the town hall on the day of the Prince of Wales's wedding as a protest at the cost. Their proposal is to be discussed by the party's district executive.

The money spent on festivities could be better used to help the unemployed, the Northampton members say.

Mr John Lupton, Labour councillor for the area, said: "The royal wedding is an expensive jamboree which is not alleviating the problems we have in this city. I would be quite happy to see the red flag flying over the town hall."

Mr David Heslop, Conservative leader of the city council, said: "I think this is an insult to the people of Sheffield."

Neighbourhood members say. Mr John Lupton, Labour councillor for the area, said: "The royal wedding is an expensive jamboree which is not alleviating the problems we have in this city. I would be quite happy to see the red flag flying over the town hall."

Mr David Heslop, Conservative leader of the city council, said: "I think this is an insult to the people of Sheffield."

Annual review/cars of the year

Seven's heaven

German built cars dominate our costliest category with BMW's luxury Seven series models taking the top two places

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Tale of two lunches as socialist get together

Japanese role in the security of north-east Asia to be discussed by Lord Carrington

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who arrived here on Monday night on a three-day visit, is expected to ask Japan to use its economic clout to help the West to dissuade the Soviet Union from invading the East.

He will meet Mr Masuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, for a round of consultations tomorrow at a time when the British are attempting to obtain economic and technical assistance from Japan to develop the West's economic resources.

In the past Japanese leaders have always attempted to place greater emphasis on economic rather than political issues in their contacts with their Western allies. But according to a question of Poland, the British and other international political problems are being discussed with Lord Carrington.

A spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Mr Masuoka is particularly interested in the British views on the Soviet relations.

As the only country in Asia allied with the West, Japan has a longer and more complex relationship in Europe and cannot be seen to be independent of the West. Before the war, Japan has any measures it should consult the West and coordinate its stand. Being on

either side of the Soviet Union, Britain and Japan have a similar standpoint on world affairs and these talks should prove useful.

Mr Carrington is also expected to brief Lord Carrington on the situation in Indo-China and South-East Asia.

Lord Carrington, who will also meet Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister and other senior members of the Cabinet during his three-day visit, is expected to warn Japanese leaders that Britain and other EEC nations are seriously concerned about the growing volume of Japanese exports.

According to diplomatic sources, the Foreign Secretary is likely to tell Mr Suzuki and Mr Carrington that Britain is not so much concerned about the level of Japanese exports as the concentration of Japanese goods on sensitive sectors of the British market, such as cars and electronics.

The question of Japan's role in safeguarding the security of north-east Asia is to be raised when Lord Carrington meets Mr Masuoka, the director-general of Japan's Self-Defence Agency later this week. But unlike the United States, Britain is not expected to ask Japan to increase its expenditure on defence.

Setback to Rolls-Royce: Lord Carrington told China and Soviet engineers, which has been

successfully built in Xian with British technical assistance, is not to be put into serial production, at least for the time being (David Bonavia reports from Xian, China).

Though visiting senior Rolls-Royce officials expressed satisfaction with the £50m purchase and licensing agreement for the Chinese decision to halt production of the engine was a surprise and something of a disappointment.

Mr Duan Zifan, the Deputy Minister of Machine Building with responsibility for aviation equipment, said in a prepared statement that Chinese designers had learnt a lot from assembling the Spey engine, and would use the knowledge acquired to build an all-Chinese engine in the north-eastern city of Shenyang.

Shenyang is where the Chinese have been trying, apparently without much success, to build an advanced, high-performance tactical aircraft, possibly powered by the Spey 202 military engine, for defence against Soviet MIGs.

The decision not to go into full-scale production of the Spey engine is thought to be linked to the "economic readjustment" being carried out by the Chinese Government, in which heavy or capital intensive industrial production is being cut back for the next two or three years.

Anti-Obote guerrillas plant bombs in Kampala

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, April 5

Three shops in central Kampala have been badly damaged by explosives and a warehouse at the Uganda Coffee Marketing Board's central processing plant set on fire in the latest attacks by guerrillas opposed to President Milton Obote.

The Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM) has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were condemned this weekend by Mr Paulo Muwanga, the Vice-President and Defence Minister, as "cowardly acts".

The targets were carefully selected. One shop is owned by Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Okello, commander of the Kampala garrison. Another supplied imported spirits to the Ugandan army. A third was in the shop at the time of the attack were abducted by the guerrillas, eye-witnesses said. Their fate is not known.

Coffee is Uganda's main source of foreign exchange, and the attack on the coffee processing plant was intended to hit the economy, a UFM spokesman said.

Petrol supplies in Kampala have dried up, apparently due to lack of cash to pay for new imports. Mr Muwanga, however, said yesterday that sales had been halted temporarily to enable a better distribution system to be worked out.

He denied suggestions that the lack of petrol was a punitive measure against the people of the Buganda region, where most of the guerrillas' attacks have taken place.

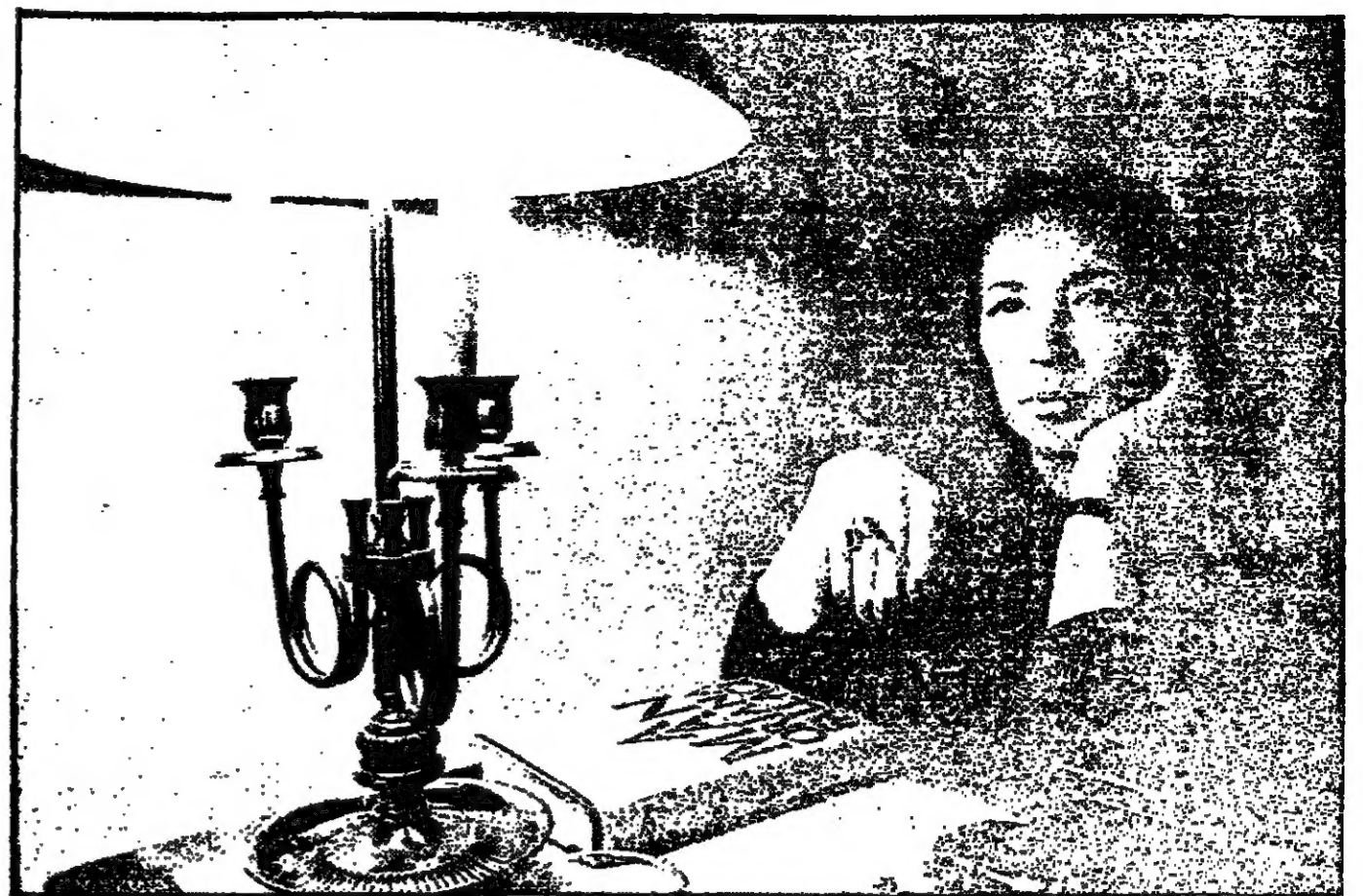
Mr Muwanga revealed that guerrilla bands, who he called "Amin's thugs" were operating in the Buganda region, close to the industrial town of Jinja, at the source of the Nile.

Dr Adoni Tibenderwa, the Industry Minister, has warned managers of factories to step up their security precautions against sabotage. He said some "disgruntled elements" were resorting to economic sabotage and armed robbery.

More than 100 people have been arrested since guerrillas blew up an electric power line and the local broadcasting station near Kampala two weeks ago. Mr Muwanga said some "bandits" had been arrested, and would soon appear in court on charges arising from the recent attacks.

A Times Interview

Memorable meeting with a lady who knows all the answers



Oriana Fallaci: weeks of research, hours of talk

It is not easy to interview an interviewer, particularly one renowned for the ferocity of his attacks and the precision of his revelations. If Oriana Fallaci herself makes the process possible it is because of her seeming passion to speak: views, events, tirades, anecdotes come rushing out without prompting and with astonishing freshness. The process, though, is not so much painless as one-sided: this famous asker of provocative questions prefers to carry out both sides of a personal interview herself.

This week, one of the rages for which the Italian journalist is celebrated was directed against *The Sunday Times* who recently published an interview of hers with Lech Walesa — cut by two thirds. She broke her contract, she says. Thus truncated, the piece also makes him out to be hysterical. "Be sure," I told him, "my interviews are very long. But everything will be in. Now I pass as a liar, I who never betray anyone. I kill myself for these interviews. They are my joy, my pride, my commitment. To do this would be to betray anyone. But for Walesa? At this minute? If it was permitted I would challenge the editor of *The Sunday Times* to a duel."

In America and Canada the "Fallaci-style" interview, with its needling and goading, its brazen aggression and cajoling charm, is now something of a cult. Students of university literature courses recall with admiration the day Oriana Fallaci got Henry Kissinger in describe himself as a lone cowboy ("All this cowboy needs is to be alone, to show others that he rides into the town and does everything by himself"), made President Nguyen van Thieu of South Vietnam cry, and teased the Shah of Iran into dismissing women ("Women are important in a man's life only if they're beautiful and charming and keep their femininity"). They marvel at a technique of journalism which has made the interviewer as important as the political stars who, astonishingly, continue to line up for an appointment. The mother of the political interview is how Oriana Fallaci describes herself, saying that it depends in most cases more on who the interviewer is than who the interviewee. She adds that it is "never a game to be exercised with cruelty."

The strategy she has perfected is not one she really wants to discuss, though when she does she is as fascinating as any craftsman describing a trade which he loves. Her subjects are selected for their "human or historical" interest. Having secured an appointment, which may take years, she spends many weeks researching and reading with "the obsession of a student preparing for an exam."

The interview itself is startlingly long: seven hours with Golda Meir, six with General Gaddafi. "My interviews are not a list of questions and answers. They are discussions, conversations, presented by a journalist and written by a writer. At times

they are almost pieces de theatre with their moments of tension and suspense... If you take the playwright approach you must develop the interview, write it, as it takes place. To do so afterwards is dishonest. You have to be quick, improvise."

While the interviews themselves are exhausting, it is afterwards the real work begins. "I transcribe the tapes word by word, using a dictionary to check the words used by any interpreter I have had. Then comes the moment of combining creativity with the most rigid exactness. If I were to interview say, Brezhnev, I couldn't change a comma. Think of the responsibility." What emerges at the end of this long procedure are "intellectual and political challenges", "irreparable events". "A human experiment on which is left the shreds of my soul". They also leave her thinner, so worn by her keyed up state, that she feels "stingy" about doing more than two or three a year.

Not surprisingly, Oriana Fallaci resists using interpreters. By speaking French, English and Spanish as well as her native Italian — she writes each first draft in Italian, the second in English — she rarely needs one, but where she has no choice she is irked by the lack of spontaneity, "the stranger body between two people speaking love".

Oriana Fallaci relies entirely on a tape recorder — "I invented it" — depending on its perfect reproduction not just for accuracy but for nuance and pitch.

The products of the Fallaci interviews have appeared mainly in *L'Europeo*. The Italian magazine for which she worked for 23 years. They started out, much to her distaste, with entertainers, royalty and novelists, the *antipatici*, the dislikeable people, of the book that bears that title, and graduated with time to politicians and those vested with power, a phenomenon that intrigues her greatly. In between came stunts as a war reporter in Vietnam.

She reserves her deepest scorn for journalists who save the tricky question to the last, preparing to bolt, their notebooks safely full, should a storm break out. "My secret is: tell it first to clear the air. For instance, I went to Khomeini knowing he was a dictator. So I said: 'I want to tell you, sir, you are the new Shah of Iran...'" He heard her out.

She illustrates this from her recent encounter with Walesa. The leader of the Polish workers' movement was, she says, nervous: he had been warned of her fame and her aggression. So he began the interview truculently, shouting, "I knew then that I had to ask him something to quieten him down, and at the same time be nice to one another. But I knew that I had my opening. The curtains were up, and the audience was asking: what's going to happen now?"

Oriana Fallaci is 50, a small, restless woman with heavy hair and a lined face. On May 1 1976, Alexander Panagoulis, the Greek resistance hero she had gone to Athens to interview and who became her lover, was killed in a suspicious car accident.

"Alekos" she had asked him during her first interview in 1973, "what does it mean to be a man?"

AP: "It means to have courage, to have dignity... It means to struggle... And to win. And for you, what is a man?"

OF: "I'd say that a man is what you are. Alexis."

After the funeral, Oriana Fallaci returned, not to the Manhattan flat she loves but to Italy, to the Tuscan farmhouse that belongs to her family, withdrawn from the world, and embarked on a book about him. *A Man* was published here last week. It has sold over a million copies in Italy.

A Man calls itself a novel, but is fiction only in its omissions, in the episodes left out because they were not "indispensable in the economy of the book." A Man took three years to write, during which, says Miss Fallaci, "I was addicted to the book, intoxicated, a form of obsession, of madness. The words I use are not enough to convey the tragedy of those years." It ran to four drafts. "I had to reconstruct reality, remaining faithful to events. It was like my interviews." By using "you" as in a letter addressed to her dead lover, Oriana Fallaci found herself plagued by the "ho" and "ato" that are the most frequent Italian past participles. So she looked for words which carried other endings. She revised, rewrote, tore up. The result, as with her journalism, is as honest a transcription of perceived events as it is possible to find; it is a rich and full-blown memorial; not easy, but it makes one like her more.

When it was all over she was relieved, but also empty. "Alexis had been alive those three years. I talked to him. Suddenly he was dead. The ghost was gone. There was nothing I could do for him except go to different countries where he is born and reborn in the translations." Oriana Fallaci says the book is best in Italian. "I write very well in Italian." She is not modest, but then nor is she ever dull.

And now? "I'm living a little". It sounds reasonable, but, Fallaci style, it is not enough. Living a little includes being a director of the Rizzoli cooperative in New York, lecturing in universities, writing a book and working on a possible film script for *A Man*.

Nineteen separate offers have come from Los Angeles productions. She remains wary. Only if she has "total control", of this as of all else, will any deal be made.

Caroline Moorehead

Prisoners of conscience



Vietnam:

Nguyen Sy Te

Caroline Moorehead
Nguyen Sy Te, a university lecturer and founder of the anti-war review, *Sang Tao* (Creative), was arrested more than 10 years ago and is still being held in a reeducation camp at Trung.

He has not been charged or brought to trial and his health is believed to be deteriorating. He was a secondary school teacher in Hanoi before moving to the time of partition.

In 1965, he was appointed a lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Saigon University. When the Government changed in April, 1975, he underwent a process of "re-education".

The Sang Tao group, in particular, was singled out and arrested. Nguyen Sy Te was one of several intellectuals who were arrested. He was said to have been writing an essay which was hostile to the Government.

For the first two years, he was held in Chi Ma prison in Ho Chi Minh (formerly Saigon). In 1977, he was sent to the re-education camp, where he now lives with thousands of his inmates who constantly try to be released under the "Reeducation Region", his future remains uncertain. Aged 59, he is married with four children.

Jack plane's not dies his wound

Ngkok, April 5. The pilot he Garuda DC9 airliner died in the head, hospitalised.

A pilot, Mr Herman Rante, shot in the head by one of hijackers during the assault on the plane, died last Tuesday.

The passengers and crew were rescued. Official reports say that none of the other hostages was injured in the rescue, but one died in Indonesian troops was shot and died at Bangkok's tipical hospital on Wednesday. Officials in Indonesia said the hijackers were killed.

Carl Schneider, an Italian passenger, was shot back last Sunday by the hijackers while trying to escape the aircraft. Hospitalised, he was about to be charged.

St of junks in thquake panic ve Hongkong

Our Correspondent
Hong Kong, April 5

Five days of detention, including 71 junks which had an estimated 4,000 refugees from China to Hong Kong, have returned home. On board had already fore the Hongkong authorities imposed a strict deadline for their departure. It extended until Sunday of bad weather.

A refugee exodus was preceded by widespread fears of an impending earthquake in Hong Kong. The rumours were dispelled by both the Hong Kong Geological Bureau and the Royal Observatory.

Leader of failed Thai coup disappears

From David Watts

Bangkok, April 5
Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of General Sanit Chitpaiboon, leader of last week's abortive coup in Thailand.

Early reports indicated that he had gone to Burma after his helicopter left Bangkok, though it was flying in a southerly direction. One Bangkok newspaper reported today that he had not even left the capital and was negotiating for political asylum in the United States. He already has a house in the United States and one of his children is studying there.

The United States embassy has declined to comment. General Sanit could have flown south, first to visit supporters in the Fourth Army Region, his old command,

before flying on further south to a country of asylum, but there have been no confirmed reports of his having done so.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, told another Bangkok newspaper that the rebel soldiers who obeyed his order to give themselves up by the deadline on the second day of the coup would not be punished. For the rest the law would take its course.

A committee of investigation is to be set up into the background to the failed coup. The Cabinet is expected to meet on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, General Amnat Damrakan, the Assistant Army Commander-in-Chief, has been the First Army Region, in which the coup attempt was centred.

Woman duels with Central African regime

Pressure on Red Cross president

From Ian Murray

Bangui, April 5
The world at large had never heard of Mrs Ruth Rolland until a month or so ago when the French press discovered that she was the president of the Central African Red Cross.

This was the charity named by President Giscard d'Estaing in his New Year's message. Some of the money he had received from the sale of diamonds given to him by ex-Emperor Bokassa.

Mrs Rolland affirmed that she never received a penny of the diamond money. The cheque for 2m Central African francs (4,000) was in fact where it still is, in the custody of President Dacko, awaiting the election of a new council for the local Red Cross.

One election has already been held and Mrs Rolland confirmed in her job, but at the end of last month a decree dissolved the entire council and the small amount of money represented by the cheque remains unavailable even though it is desperately needed.

The Red Cross headquarters in Bangui is in an old colonial building with a corrugated iron roof, just across the road from the big white wall surrounding the presidential palace. When Mrs Rolland was elected last November it was falling apart.

The water, electricity and telephone bills had not been paid and all the services had been cut off.

With her own money and enthusiasm Mrs Rolland had the services, cleaned the walls and had a Red Cross painted on the outside. Funds were all but nonexistent but she allowed 30 of the stray boys who hang around the market place to use the headquarters outbuildings as a dormitory. Each morning she saw to it that they were fed.

She has been doing this type of thing for years. Her French husband is a former para-trooper turned armoured car financier in her good works and backs her in the many duels she has always seemed to have with the Government.

For over a decade she ran the country's Red Cross and of the air and "Auntie Ruth's" strong voice is almost as well known as her face is in the newspapers. Her radio programme, now banned, dispensed advice and comfort to refugees to unfaithful husbands.

When his election campaign started President Dacko tried to recruit this popular figure to his cause. She refused point blank and began campaigning for Mr Francois Bongo, the independent who she considered had the least connexion of any

of the five candidates with the disgraced Bokassa regime.

Perhaps it was only coincidental but at about this time the 30 boys in the outbuildings were forcibly evicted by the police and the processes began by which the Red Cross Council was dissolved, contrary to the normal practices which place such decisions in the jurisdiction of national governments.

She has now found another home for the boys who are aged between six and 16 and have all been abandoned to beg, scavenge or steal. When she first started looking after them they were spending what money they obtained on getting drunk or glue sniffing. They are now busy making mud bricks to build their own home on land that she has found for them.

The day she received the first set of real clothes they have ever had from the French company which makes all the many uniforms for the Central African Government.

The other evening at sunset she climbed into her car, she was all but submerged by a shouting, happy band of the boys, all trying to hug her at once. She alone looked sad. They will suffer because my father is a politician, she said. "There is so much suffering in my country and I can do so little."

Corruption charges against ministers halted by Delhi

From Kuldip Nayar

Delhi, April 5
The central Government has dropped charges of corruption and misuse of power against two former chief ministers, Dr M. Karunanidhi of Tamil Nadu and Dr M. Chenna Reddy of Andhra Pradesh.

In both cases, the decision was apparently taken for political reasons at the highest level: recommendations from below were in favour of proceeding with allegations against the two former chief ministers and pursuing them to the hilt.

Regarding Dr Karunanidhi, the Central Bureau of Investigation believed that most of the allegations against him could be proved in court.

In the case of Dr Reddy, the Home Ministry, which processed the charges against him submitted to the Prime Minister, found enough material to in-

vestigate and proceed further, but for some reason this was not done.

In fact, Mr Zail Singh, the Home Minister, has already informed Mr J. Jayaram, a Lok Sabha member from West Bengal, that the Government has no intention of proceeding against Dr Reddy.

It appears that political considerations have weighed heavily with the Government in deciding to drop the cases against the two former chief ministers. In Tamil Nadu, Dr Karunanidhi's party, the DMK, is an ally of the Congress (I). The two parties contested the last elections jointly. In Andhra Pradesh, Dr Reddy still wields a great deal of influence. It is believed that Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, does not want to see Dr Reddy's reputation damaged by a court case.

Prince Charles hooks a trout

Auckland, April 5.—The Prince of Wales went fishing on the Tongararo river near Taupo today and caught a 6 lb 12 oz rainbow trout.

He slipped away for his fishing after attending a welcoming ceremony at the Maori meeting area next to Lake Taupo. He received a carved jewelry box from the paramount chief of the Ngati-Tuharetoa tribe, Sir Hepi Te Heu Heu.—AP.

Convict drowns prison governor

Huntsville, April 5.—A convict drowned the new governor of the toughest jail in Texas and shot dead a warder before he was captured.

Mr Wallace Pack, aged 54, had been in charge of the Huntsville maximum security prison for only 20 days. A prison official said the convict took a pistol from Mr Pack's car yesterday, killed the warder and then drowned the governor in a ditch.—Reuter.

Ethiopian appeal for aid to disaster victims

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, April 5
Ethiopia is appealing for international aid for 3,500,000 people affected by drought or famine, or displaced from their homes by wars in Eritrea and the Ogaden desert bordering Somalia.

Mr Shimelis Adoagna, the Ethiopian Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, gave this figure when he addressed a donors' meeting in Addis Ababa yesterday. He asked for £150m in assistance to help those in urgent need.

His appeal was based on the results of a survey carried out in consultation with United Nations agencies. The report said food supplies in the main drought areas could provide only 400 grammes a day.

The United Nations report estimated the number of people in urgent need of assistance at a million and a half, but the Ethiopian Commissioner said that was an underestimate.

Mr Shimelis said the refugee problem in the Horn of Africa should be considered on a non-political basis. Some donors were more willing to give aid to one area than to another, he said, apparently referring to increased American aid to Somalia.

Because refugee camps in Somalia get bigger food rations than those in Ethiopia, many people have crossed the border to the neighbouring territory, he added.

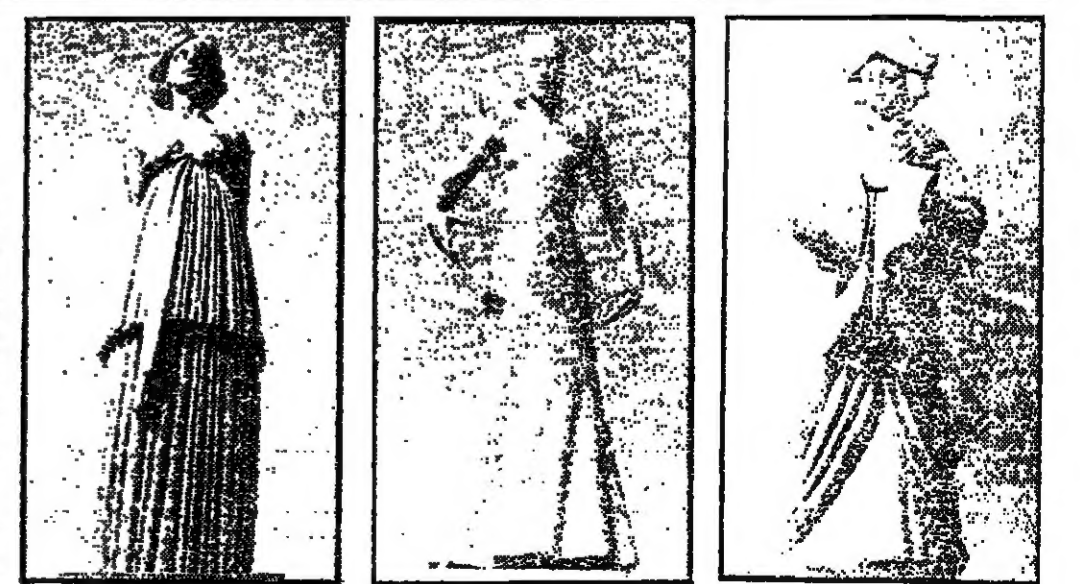
Fourteen fine figures by the river

Fourteen gorgeous ladies will shortly be gracing London's riverside. To judge from their costume, they come from all parts of the world, but they are not, as you may think, finalists in an off-season Miss World contest, since they are all 12ft tall. With resin bodies painted the colour of Portland stone, they will be erected above the cornice of Unilever House, whose curving facade faces the north end of Blackfriars Bridge.

They are the work of sculptor Nicholas Munro, whose previous subjects include Coco the Clown, Max Wall and King Kong. He was, he admits, a little surprised to have been asked the commission, and he too modestly feels that the present dearth of figurative sculptors "who know anatomy" explains it. Humour has no place among the Unilever beauties, which were originally conceived as goddesses. In the course of time they slid a few pages down the iconographic hierarchy to become what London, ago, will soon see them to be: ethnic dancers.

Even so they "seem" less than Mr Munro initially intended as the architectural setting demands statuesque poses.

The 14 figures are composed of seven sets of identical twins, which will be arranged symmetrically. Through their national or rather international costumes they pay tribute to the numerous countries with which Unilever has connections throughout the world. Miss India sways seductively in a fishscale skirt; Miss South Africa rambles in tiers of frills. A slinky little number was felt to be appropriate for Miss United States, although why not a drum majorette's uniform? Miss (or should it be Mr) Far East wears the elaborate kimonos of Kabuki drama (traditionally acted by men).



International tributes: Northern Europe, United States, the Far East

Clad in harem pants and not much else, Miss Middle East is less equivocal. On the other hand, Miss Africa is well wrapped up in long, traditional robes — Mr Munro's bare-breasted version having been revised in case it offended Unilever's visiting African guests. The demurest is Miss UK (strictly speaking, Miss Northern Europe) who was originally to have been a May Queen but grew, instead, into the most classical of the troupe, with her hands clasped behind her back in approved Royal Family manner.

The ladies have a serious

architectural purpose. Unilever House, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has grown too small for company needs. Rather than redevelop the site, Unilever took the enlightened decision of finding extra space within the existing structure. Among other things, this entailed redesigning the top two floors and putting windows into the hitherto blind attic. The idea of a multinational parade of belles was thought up to take the spectator's mind pleasantly off the slight architectural loss.

Clive Aslet
The author is a writer for Country Life.

THE ARTS

Television

Boat Race/Grand National/Eurovision Song Contest BBC 1

Michael Church

Change and decay in all around we see: for reassurance, tune to the BBC.

Boat Race No 127 was very like Boat Race No 126 and several others before that: Oxford won. "Very much the underdogs, Cambridge," said the commentator, as the light blue public schoolboys glared nervously at the dark blue grammar lads with their pretty lady cars, and that was indeed the last they saw of them. "Cambridge must go away and try to do something about rowing at their university" was the final acid comment as the BBC helicopter spun disdainfully away. No prizes for guessing what.

A little later, helicopters took us dizzily over the jumps of Grand National No 135. We were shown historic pile-ups at Becher's Brook in horrible slow motion, and we met one or two daredevils whose broken bones would prevent their riding this year. "Keep everything crossed, boys," quipped the lone female jockey to her watching sons at home.

Until he lost us our money halfway round, we were keeping everything crossed for a plucky outsider called Lord Gulliver, but the outcome was, as everyone agreed, pure fairy tale. "Everybody takes all the credit," said the light blue trainer, his voice breaking with emotion. "The governor did all the work," said the jockey gallantly, temporarily forgetting his own triumph over cancer.

"I honestly sort of don't know," said the owner, when asked who the breeder was, but he did know that it was all pure fairy tale. Even on a small screen the thickly peopled green acres looked magical.

Later again, helicopters attempted to set an authentic Irish mood for Eurovision Song Contest No 76 by slowly circling round ancient forts and priceless chieftains, but a more authentically Irish mood was established by the mechanized scoreboard which unlike the quasi-humans present, clearly had a mind of its own. At a moment when France was leading with 24 points, Ireland was suddenly found to have 326. Whenever backs were turned, Turkey's paltry score was removed completely, to the justifiable fury, no doubt, of the watching millions in Istanbul.

Each group preceded its entry with a film clip. Terry Wogan had a good old sneer at the fact that they had all elected to be filmed singing and drinking, but he took their act as seriously as any of the other quasi-humans, and got very worked up when foreign judges disagreed with him. Four plastic flowers called Buck's Fizz soon with a clever gimmick: the male flowers rippled off female flowers' skirts off. Taken further, this could have been mildly interesting.

By comparison, Gary Glitter (Arend. BBC 2) seemed almost unbearably real. But then, unlike the Eurovisioners, he is not a puppet. Most of the Eurovision came prepackaged in natty cream suits: Glitter's Japanese fruitiness kept bursting out all over. "Ever done any camping out?" asked Roy Plomley. Gary felt asked.

Northern Sinfonia/Chung Queen Elizabeth Hall

Noël Goodwin

When the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra comes to London, as it does four times a season, its programmes have the advantage of being mostly "played in" at other locations first and there is often particular pleasure to be had as a result. That occurred in much of Friday night's concert, even though illness had taken its toll of two successive soloists for Britten's Nocturne, and brought Robin Leggate as a late replacement to sing these haunting songs of night and sleep.

His bright, forward tone, which has memorably defined a number of lyric tenor roles at Covent Garden, found some early difficulties in the softly dreaming opening of Shelleys' "On a Poet's Lips" but elsewhere brought the mid-night memories vividly to mind in the settings of Keats, Tennyson and others. The singer's feeling for the sense of the verse was intelligently matched by the sympathetic partnership of the orchestra under Myung-Whun Chung.

The conductor was evidently anxious that we should appreciate the players as individuals. Not only were the seven obbligato soloists featured in Britten (with notable success by Stephen Reay's bassoon and David Llanes's flute) but the orchestra's flexibility of ensemble enabled them to entertain us with the wit and character of Stravinsky's instrumentation of children's piano pieces, in their more diverting form as Eight Instrumental Miniatures for 15 players.

The symphonies that began and ended the programme were no less felicitously chosen. Mozart's No 28 in C (K200) was near, well modulated and not overexpressive, but another C major symphony even more rarely heard was specially enjoyable. This was Weber's No 1, which detaches itself with difficulty from minutes at the expense of time but by the last movement has found its most captivating character, as communicated by the restrained fervour and polished ensemble of the performance.

A fresh mind on Molière's 'odd man out'

Five years ago Peter Hall, as he was in those untidy days, drew up plans for a season devoted to the Don Juan legend at the National Theatre. The cornerstone was to be his own Glyndebourne production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* transferred to the Lyttelton while the other stages would house the full-length version of Shaw's *Man and Superman*, including the central *Don Juan in Hell* act, Odón von Horvath's *Don Juan Goes to War* and Molière's *Don Juan*.

Industrial action and lack of money scuppered the scheme, but bit by bit over the years the various elements have been presented, led by *Don Giovanni* which marked Glyndebourne's first appearance in a London theatre. The last piece of the package, *Don Juan*, goes on show at the Cottesloe tomorrow in a new translation from the French by the novelist John Fowles. At the start of his career Fowles very nearly became a French teacher.

"When I came down from Oxford I went to the University of Poitiers as a lecturer. The subject assigned to me was English Literature, which was unfortunate because I knew far less about that than I did of the French variety. The French department at Winchester and the other was a ratty school in Greece. Of course, I went against all the dictates of commonsense and took the Greek job."

"It was while I was at Poitiers that there came on the very same day two offers of teaching posts. One was in the French department at Winchester and the other was a ratty school in Greece. Of course, I went against all the dictates of commonsense and took the Greek job."

Perhaps commonsense did in fact prevail, because from the Greek experience there later emerged *The Magus* and shortly afterwards John Fowles gave up schoolmastering. Was *Don Juan*, to give Molière's play its English title, Fowles's first professional attempt at translation?

"Not quite. Almost thirty years ago I did a novel by a curious lady who was a friend of Chateaubriand and was admired as a writer by Stendhal and Flaubert. It interested me because it is, as far as I know, the first study of a black man written by a white woman. But you won't find it easy to track



A distaste for hypocrisy: John Fowles (above), and Nigel Terry (left) and Ron Pember, as Don Juan and Sganarelle, in the National Theatre production

down: it was commissioned by a Texan antiquarian bookseller and was printed in a small and very expensive edition. "When Peter Hall first approached me about Molière it was decided that I should make English versions of two French plays, *Don Juan* and Alfred de Musset's *Lorenzaccio*. The latter, as it stands at the moment, would run for five hours and needs a vast of thousands. Peter goes slightly pale every time I mention it. I enjoy translation simply because it is much like a crossword puzzle. I am a great aficionado. You have before you a number of pleasing problems to solve and your tool is language. You don't have the novelist's guilt of creating something out of blankness."

Don Juan is the odd man out among Molière's plays. It throws the classical unities to the four winds; it has a final act with the immoralist, Don Juan, denouncing the morals of the time; and Molière has

no compunction in mixing high wit with high farce.

Yes, it is the play which does not fit into the Molière canon and probably that is why it has never been popular. The French are very compartmentalised: they don't like pieces which do not find a place in their overall scheme of things. And of course in Britain Molière has become very much the study dramatist. There are rare exceptions like the John Dexter production of *Le Misanthrope*, for the National, but on the whole we don't quite know what to do with him so we leave him alone. I'm very glad that Peter Gill, who is directing *Don Juan*, has picked the play out of the pack on offer to him — is no expert on seventeenth-century French drama. He will bring a fresh eye to it."

And has John Fowles done likewise? "Well, I hope so. I began by making a rough literal translation with the help of one of my old Oxford professors. Then

the next stage was to determine what *Don Juan* is about. I decided that it concerned hypocrisy, witness that speech you mentioned. The final act is an enigma, perhaps one of the greatest in the whole of Molière. It is possible that Molière punishes Don Juan and sends him down to hell because he finally turns hypocrite like all those whom he has denounced."

"But *Don Juan* is also about the use and abuse of language. I see *Juan* as semiologist. A kind of early Roland Barthes. He has an ear for the way people speak and he can imitate them. Donna Elvira, for instance, does not realize quite how much she gives herself away by her words. *Juan*'s own speech is generally plain and straightforward, but when he addresses Elvira he adopts her style noble and in so doing mocks her."

"This is the part of the play with the greatest interest as far as I'm concerned. The *Don Juan*

theme has never held any particular attraction for me and I've certainly not used it in any of my novels. *Don Giovanni*, it goes without saying, is a masterpiece, but one that I have never found particularly affecting. And for that matter I'm not at all that keen on *Man and Superman*. But I share one hundred per cent Molière's dislike of political double-talk, which comes out so clearly in *Don Juan*, and I'm all for the further examination of language and its use, something else he probes in this play."

John Higgins

Book review

Why Christianity Works

By Mary Kenny

(Michael Joseph, £6.95)

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Mary who lived in Ireland. Life in Ireland was very dull; families were big and children did not always get as much attention as they wanted. Mary read about the big city over the water. Now that sounded exciting.

As soon as she was old enough, Mary left home and family, and set out for London. She was not disappointed: life was exciting. Mary had arrived at a wonderful time for young women — unlike their mothers, girls had lots of freedom and if they wanted they could live just like boys, drinking, smoking, even having affairs without becoming pregnant. Mary liked this, but she wanted more. She became a journalist and campaigned for changes in the abortion law, easier access to contraceptives, and lots of other reforms. She even went

back to Ireland to support those women in the south who were demanding contraceptives, which were illegal there. All this went on for a long time, and Mary was very happy. She enjoyed life and was much admired as a good feminist. Then she got married and had a baby. Mary looked at her baby son and realized that she had been wrong and that her mother and her church had been right all the time — and so she is now, in a sense, a double convert. She has written a book explaining her new views.

Miss Kenny (oddly, in view of her philosophy, she has not adopted her husband's name) is quite a different person from the young woman who came from Ireland. The pill, which she once advocated, is now anathema. Women must have all the babies God sends (she has two). Abortion under any circumstances is wrong — most social issues from being on the left. Miss Kenny has moved to the Far Right, a position not all Christians would endorse. Miss Kenny never seems to have thought very clearly as she pursued her feminist campaigns, and unfortunately she thinks no more clearly now.

Even the title of her book is inaccurate: it is not about why Christianity works. She admits this, and says it is about why Catholicism works for her — perhaps Catholicism rather than Christianity would be a more appealing title. Catholicism is, by no means the whole of Christianity, a fact she does not always realize.

Nor does she get Catholicism right: it promises greater hope and understanding of diversity of character than she allows. Above all, she has forgotten an all-important text: "Faith, hope and charity." These three: but the greatest of these is charity. She tells her readers firmly that it is not enough to accept the dogmas and aesthetic truths of Christianity, but that all the liberal ones must be accepted as well. Mary Kenny lacks charity, and has sold herself and her former friends and supporters short in a garbled and inaccurate account of how she thinks Christianity works. We must hope for a better exposition of the problems and possibilities facing the Christian woman in the 1980s.

Margaret Allen

Glasshouses Theatre Upstairs

Irving Wardle

In *Touched*, Stephen Lowe produced a faithful picture of life in wartime Britain before he was born. In *Glasshouses* he moves to the period of his own adolescent memory in the early 1960s, and produces a picture that might well have been compiled from second-hand sources.

Once again, the setting is Nottingham, and the form a neighbourhood chronicle spread over a prolonged time-span. The starting point is the removal of two families into some less-than-ideal accommodation (their new environment is never clearly defined), so as to sort out those who can adapt to change from those who cannot. The casualties are the two fathers, old Army buddies who are lost in postwar Britain. Arthur has shut his mind to it by going stone deaf, and is treated as an object of embarrassment by his family. Frank, who seems to have lost

his job (again no details) retains a shell of confidence which is brutally demolished by his wife Elsie after the move. The children look on in disbelief at the ugly mess their parents have made of their lives: observing the fixed ideas, sexual restrictions and power struggles of the older generation, fearful that they may do no better. In the meantime they protect themselves from the surrounding poison by quietly cutting themselves off. The exception is Arthur's son Jim who sees himself as a reincarnation of D. H. Lawrence, and sets out to make a *Sons and Lovers* style home movie showing himself and his girlfriend breaking through the inherited bonds of Smeaton morality.

So far so good. What is missing is the dispassionate observation of a particular society that lent such authority to *Touched*. Instead, the elders are seen as frightening or ludicrous monsters, as they would appear to children. June Watson's Elsie never addresses a word to Frank (Bernard Kay) except to humiliate him; and finally she condemns him to life in a greenhouse where he curls up and dies. Richard Butler's Arthur remains a bundle of refuse stuck in the corner, periodically cutting into the conversation with inconsequential bigotries in a strident dead-man's voice.

As for young Jim (Nick Dunning), if ever there was a piece of self-hating character assassination it is in this portrait of an intellectually patronizing, harshly egotistical, socially timid would-be aesthete who spreads as much guilt around as his elders, and who seems all set for a lifetime of revenging himself on his upbringing under the masquerade of literature.

There are some extremely funny passages in Annie Castledine's production, such as a filmed love scene (featuring the mischievous Sylvester (to Toulz), which the parents mistake for a gang-bang; but it is the dispassionate observation of a particular society that lent such authority to *Touched*. Instead, the elders are seen as frightening or ludicrous monsters, as they would appear to children. June Watson's Elsie never addresses a word to Frank (Bernard Kay) except to humiliate him; and finally she condemns him to life in a greenhouse where he curls up and dies.

Friday night's recital found him in a more familiar frame of mind, in the company of pianist John Taylor, the bassist Chris Laurence and the drummer John Marshall, all colleagues from the earlier days. Much of the music, collective improvisations built on skeletal compositions, was like old times, only Surman's use of electronic devices reminding us of his recent preoccupations.

The most absorbing sequence, lasting about 20 minutes, began with a slow, morbid unison for bass clarinet and arco bass

before Surman raised the pressure and opened the way for Laurence's passionate solo. A heated conversation among the rhythm section was rejoined by the bass clarinet, this time employing subtle echo and double-tracking effects, before Surman switched to baritone saxophone for a duel with Marshall in which the saxophone produced all manner of freewheeling, emotionally charged whistles and cries. Finally the piece transformed itself into a fast, rambling blues before dying in a rattle of bass strings.

After such intensity, everything else — even a loving treatment of Monk's "Round Midnight" — with Taylor outstandingly eloquent — sounded relaxed. Surman seemed to enjoy himself; perhaps he will be stimulated into further such appearances.

last year, even though its layers of saxophones and synthesizers, built up by means of overdubbing, suggested that he had at last thrown off the mantle of his influences and had discovered a music of remarkable purity and lyricism which was his alone.

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Balconville Old Vic

Irving Wardle

As the tourist sees it, Montreal is amusingly inscribed in the bilingual road signs and the affluent English and French communities each winding up their own side of the mountain. This is not the case in the working-class Point St Charles area — the setting of David Fennario's play — where poverty drives the old enemies into sharing the same narrow territory and hanging the maple leaf and the fleur-de-lys on adjoining windows.

Guy Sprung's Centaur Theatre production arrives at the Old Vic via Bath and Belfast, with the rare distinction of having overcome Quebecois bigotries in its casting and Canadian audiences. (One of the company, I note, is Marc Gelin, son of the intransigent founder of the Comédie Canadienne.) For all its Franco-English hostilities, separatism is not the play's theme. So far as fire hazards, extortionate landlords, and the 40 per cent unemployment rate are concerned, all the subsequent dwellers are in the same boat. There will be time enough to restore the Plains of Quebec when they have all moved into Westmount mansions.

The main action centres on three families, two English and one French, whose apartments overlook the corner of a grimy yard. Interconnecting balconies are occupied by the Paquette family with its proudly employed male breadwinner, and the joblessly demoralized Johnny who goes drinking every night on his wife's earnings as a waitress. Down below lives Muriel, a permanent nag, and her grass widow whose main target is her unemployed teenage son. To

the nationalist tensions added those of physical aggression; and the sea atmosphere is one of an untruce, repeatedly exploding into open aggression, or a repressed, almost claustrophobic. There are many touches must surely have hit Montreal public with a sense of recognition, such as Paquette père's fusils to pollute his lips the English language, and sight of the two men each tugging back to back watching same ball game on two separate television sets. The crises all derive truthfully from the environment; a drunk that wrecks a party, the death of poor Mme Paquette cherished pot plants, and all shouting and door-slamming spring from the no-hope frictions of society, with judgments against individual characters.

Women convincingly en as stronger than the politically as well as domally. Johnny merely throw eggs at a visiting election candidate, but in the fire the play with the collapse the next building, it is women who have the last word.

I cannot pretend that Balconville is much fun at the Old Vic, you see what is going on. There is no theatrical section of national character and however authentic the performances of Susan W. Jean Archambault, and Gelin, they appear through the wrong end of a scope: a slice of life in the far distance. Not clear the statement of the play, its moment-to-moment plotting is cumbersome, events stitched together so as to give group a fair deal. And the production is cruelly and unconvincingly another well-meaning but false view of the city.

The Business of Murder Duchess

Anthony Masters

Welcome to a thriller that is well crafted and well acted without having a plot resembling a corkscrew or, like recent deathraps and oily Levantines, lecturing the house on its own smartness.

Richard Harris's first stage play since *Outside Edge* is a definitely thriller, not a who-dunnit, although grisly props leave little doubt that something, or rather somebody, has been done. He even calmly turns initial exposition into a cliffhanger by making a mystery simply of what is going on.

A winging, cringing little man in brown (the suave Francis Matthews is barely recognizable) and a crazy detective superintendent (George Sewell) meet in a suburban flat of discreetly yucky good taste up whose walls any decent duck family would be proud to fly. What are they doing there? Only viewers of the original television version will know; and if you know, you have extra pleasures.

Mr Harris gives plenty of clues, almost too many; and the emergence of the answer slowly and haphazardly, as if

we were overbearing real violence into proper fear. happens, the full answer sensational enough to pr his first-act curtain. From on, the denouement is a less.

Mr Sewell's prizefighter-detective (whimsically named after the theatre's manager) is dry and tough the remainder biscuit, mending his job for "plan fresh air, a nice pension ample opportunity to get leg over" Lynette D. claret charts the graphic of a victim unusually and sophisticated for a End thriller, and Nola Bae. Salvin Stewart do all one with rather underwritten. But, as the plot turns out, Mr Matthews's play, a carries it with a detailed, clipped piece of character acting that is a delight to watch.

Experts will note that Harris puts the play's big ing at a point in the where no author has p before that, rather, brain-teaser does not blind to its human tragedy. The twist, though too c reminiscent of two other could name, is satisfying logic, and in his calculated ambiguities lead perfectly: a useful t as it happens, for a critic cerned not to give a good away.

Beguiling to the ear

London Choral Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

Choral music has persisted in vain Hamilton's output ever since the *Border Songs* of 1953 and lately he has been more than ever productive in this direction. His recent *Vespers and Requiem* have been followed by a Mass in nine movements, and this had its world premiere on Saturday evening from the London Choral conducted by David Coleman.

Making use of a large body of unaccompanied voices, the music is spacious, often restrained, but never austere in a merely negative sense, the ear being constantly beguiled. Most of the writing is in six parts and Dr Hamilton makes little use of overt contrast dramatic or otherwise, establishing his Mass in nine movements, the accumulation of effect and above all through lively counterpoints.

The initial "Kyrie Eleison" is typical, with vocal phrases which follow convention in the sense that they are long and smoky flowing all parts being on the way nearly all the time, the outer voices

frequently reaching for heights and the depths. result is animated and as gent, the latter quality ar from the way the lines a for Dr Hamilton's thinking essentially horizontal.

"More virtuosic is "Gloria," especially in splendid outburst of v sound which is beg Still the music moves in a less flow but not in the s of empty decorative arabesq for the invention is consi especially in terms of trapezoidal musical id have more distinct idies and one begins notice how apt is much the word-setting. Here the d mic range is wider also and overall sound of the choir, g and in six parts, is beauti

Indeed, this is the r adventurous and the most quent movement, although "Angus Dei" and "Doni N. Pacem" are no less met able. Considering the num of voices involved Mr Cole obtained an excellently gr ated performance of a wor only the last of whose ments, the "Amen di Mes being one of the most elab laboration for its own s And this made an appropria

weaves the six instruments i a contrapuntal texture that easily sound thick unless carefully weighed and blea This team had not given eno thought to ventilation, and to pin our ears on to this that particular strand. Not they make enough of dyna contrasts. Once or twice, leader's intonation, like his it iog, seemed a little indeci Even the "Dumka" "Furiant" lacked temperam

The gramophone cataa betrays the St Martin the Fields Academy as a wh have already recorded Tol kovsky's charmer in orchest dress. So there is no need to quire further as to why this formance revealed the tea a completely different, lig exuberant in brio, canabile, acutely responsive the sheer mass of sound o jured up by the old orchest wizard in what was a chamber work, in fact stylishly unified and yielding ensemble as if playing with a baton. In their relief of even their sonority acquired bloom of a small art orchestra.

Why? The answer was of course the playing. The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Sextet gave the Czech piece what seemed a capable run-through without in any way making it their own. Part of the trouble lay in balance. Dvorak does not just write tunes and accompaniments, but

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from Friday later editions.



Anthony Dowell and Antoinette Sibley in *Hamlet*

Royal Ballet Covent Garden

John Percival

It is extraordinary how like Robert Helpmann, at the time he was dancing *Hamlet* himself, Anthony Dowell looks in the revival of the ballet at Covent Garden. Intense eyes, sunk in darkened sockets, glare out of the pale face beneath a tall brow as he begins to explore the dreams that come "in that sleep of death". The role calls for exactly the kind of acting which the Prince of Denmark warned the first player about, but never mind, Dowell tears a passion to tatters with thrilling effect.

His Ophelia is Antoinette Sibley, back on the Covent Garden stage after — can it really be five years? — she acts with fuller blooded abandon than before, making more understandable *Hamlet*'s confusion between her and Monica Mason's suave Gertrude. The acting in some other roles, Graham Fletcher's grave-digger honourably excepted, is less rich than I seem to remember in early days, and so are several of the costumes.

The cast list helpfully offers notes on the relationship of the characters, but unless you know the play well you are never going to follow Helpmann's ingenious plotting, which crams an astonishing amount of detail into 20 minutes at the expense of time but by the last movement has found its most captivating character, as communicated by the restrained fervour and polished ensemble of the performance.

played) make the ballet worth seeing, or even seeing again. The performance of *Les Sylphides* which preceded *Hamlet* on Thursday was distinguished only by the dancing of Lesley Collier in the waltz and of the chorus. It was meant to have had new designs by John Fowles, but they have been postponed for lack of time "to realize the full potential of the setting", whatever that may mean. Rehearsal time seems to be in short supply with the Royal Ballet this season, which has already caused the promised new ballet by Hans van Manen to be put off until next year.

And, since sorrows "come not single spies, but whole battalions", we were also done out of the announced revival of Astor's *Sylvia pas de deux* on Thursday. The choreographer decided, during rehearsals, that he would rather show the pretty but frumpy *Voices of Spring* number which he made for Covent Garden's *Fledermaus*. With all respect, that seems an extraordinary preference, unless it means we are shortly to get a complete *Sylvia*, in which case I shall be the first to cheer.

Merle Park and Wayne Eagling danced it exuberantly, but their new costumes, understandably anonymous, are hideous.

In *Manon* the previous night, Eagling's impassioned Des Grieux swamped the pallid debut of Marguerite Porter in the title part and Derek Deane as Lescaut. Leighton Lucas's aristocrat is not particularly distinguished, arrangement of bits and pieces by Massenet has been reorchestrated by John Lanchbery. It is as if a heavy coat of treacle had been painted on, leaving the music far too sweet and somewhat tacky.

John Surman 100 Club

Richard Williams

The British jazz scene has never quite recaptured the zest, the sense of adventure and the unity it enjoyed at the end of the Sixties, when the saxophonist John Surman was unquestionably its preeminent instrumentalist. His sudden decision to abdicate that role, prompted by an interest in new forms and working methods, removed the focal point and presaged a series of divisions and diversions.

Sighings of Surman on London stages have been rare for a decade, and memories are short. His most recent album, *Upon Reflection*, made a virtually unremarked appearance

Gosforth find right balance on field of play but not in fields of finance

Cardiff and Holmes in

relaxed vein

By Gerald Davies
Cardiff 40 Bedford 1

After the miserably wet conditions of the last week, both sides in this day took advantage of the sun conditions on the outfield to turn on their backs to dabble in the free-running game. It was inevitable that, along with moments of abandon and dash, individual skill, there should be mistakes too but nobody seemed to worry and/or shout that.

With the season drawing to a close, the atmosphere was relaxed and enjoyable. This may have suited Cardiff before they sell down this week to the more serious business of considering how they can win the Welsh Cup.

For the first time next Saturday. Four tries in 10 minutes in the final stages eventually saw the home side romp to an easy victory by four goals and four tries to Bedford's three tries. Cardiff were always in com-

ward, capable of producing something extra whenever the occasion demanded: Bedford, until the last winter, kept beavering away largely through the efforts of Wilkinson and, until he went out just before half-time, their captain, Phillips. Although Bedford

were outmanoeuvred in the back division, both half backs did much useful probing, Young, with little possession, making some good breaks close to the scrum as well as setting his line in motion.

But such movements were not to their advantage because time and again they were unceremoniously bowled over in mid-field. Youngs did get some rewards for his efforts however. On either side of the interval he made two dancing partners.

These, along with a try that Kerridge had scored against the run of play in the first half, brought Bedford within 10 points.

Any further illusions Bedford might have had were soon dashed by two devastating blows.

his was since December 13. He had been allowed, by the operation of the game, to play himself in gradually, much to the relief of the Cardiff selectors who had Saturday's cup game in mind.

He kicked a long, rolling ball from his own half to within a metre of the opposition's line after setting up the pressure. In position he then ran wide of the back with characteristic forcefulness to race over for a try in the corner. Thereafter, Cardiff re-

way with the game and, in quick succession, tries were scored by Breese, Phillips and Davies, one of which was converted by Davies.

CARDIFF: P. Williams, K. Briggs, J. Burcher, N. Hultingsa, S. Evans, Davies, † Holmes, L. Welford, A. Phillips, I. Edwards, K. Edwards, R. Thomas, P. Edwards.

BEDFORD: J. Glenhance, J. Sam
 ni, S. Kerridge, P. McKay, C. Day,
 J. Che-worth, R. Young, P.
 ord, and C. Donlon. R. Pascall, N.
 Hurst, J. Mawle A. Whitehouse R.
 Wilkinson, G. Phillips (captain) (rep.
 Eales).
 Reference: R. Jones.

final

RESULTS: First round Melrose 14.

12 Gals 24, Lincoln 0;
 20, Hawley 4; Stewart's Me-
 20 Kilmarnock 12, Kils 12;
 12 Watsonians 10, West of
 8 Boroughmuir 18, Orrell
 24, Garscaddan 0 Sec-
 20, Melrose 17; Sel-
 24, Stewart's Melville 0, Kelso
 1 Watsonians 6; Boroughmuir 28,
 16 Gals 10, Kils 24, Borough-

Cross-country

Kedir takes it all

in his stride
San Vittore Olona, April 5.—
Mohammed Kadir, of Ethiopia,
on the six-mile Five Mills cross-

country race in 29min 45sec today. Roberto de Castilla, of Australia, beat Miruts Yifter, another Ethiopian, for second place. He was the sole non-Ethiopian in the top seven to finish.

The wiry Kadir strode effort.

ssly through the race. De Cas-
illa, aged 24, a Melbourne science
udent, who was sixth in last
eek's cross-country champion-
p, broke away in the seventh
ometre, building a five-second
ad.

Grete Waitz, of Norway, predictably finished far ahead of the field in winning the women's 2.5-mile event in 16min 43sec.—
Editor.

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Commercial Property

Developers look towards City fringes

The City's Square Mile has reached saturation point and there is little room for further development and expansion of office space. More and more buildings are being listed and planning authorities are reluctant to look at schemes which take the buildings skywards.

Both developers and tenants are being forced to move beyond the traditional boundaries of the City. Whether city centres like it or not, the world's oldest financial quarter is seeing its boundaries expanded in every direction.

Areas such as Holborn, the Monument, Houndsditch, Aldgate and even the Angel have witnessed a rapid rise in rental values and development activity over the past two years, almost unthinkable even five years ago.

Rents in Holborn, for example, have soared past their 1973 peak, currently at around £16.50 per sq ft, while City offices have only just caught up with the previous boom's peak of between £23 and £24 a sq ft.

While the area between Holborn Circus and Kingsway has been a hive of activity over the past 18 months, both developers and agents have shifted their attention to sites around the north side of London Bridge and Billingsgate.

It is estimated that anything up to one million sq ft of new office space could come on to the market over the next decade. Certainly by the mid 1980s about 700,000 sq ft of accommodation will be available.

The way for development in the Monument area was paved with the acceptance of Cannon Street as a banking and City offices area. Midland Bank's leasing of the 130,000 sq ft St Magnus House at £20 a sq ft put this area clearly on the City map.

Since then Land Securities has started on its 130,000 sq ft King William Street development, and there are plans to link it with a similarly large office area on the neighbouring Regis House site.

Other big schemes by Edger Investments, a Prudential subsidiary, and the Trade Develop-

ment Bank indicate that the forgotten corner of the City is gaining respectability.

But all these schemes are overshadowed by the Swire group's development plan for the Billingsgate Fish Market site. Encompassing the old building, together with a new one, Swire's scheme would offer almost 400,000 sq ft, gross, of new office space.

Future growth around the Monument and Holborn, largely depends on demand for space within the Square Mile itself. According to the latest survey of the City by surveyors Richard Ellis rents could rise to as much as £45 per sq ft in the prime banking areas.

Ellis forecasts that a substantial slowing down of new accommodation coming on to the market will increase pressure on rents. It points out that of an estimated 2m sq ft of new space being completed during the current year virtually one-third is in the City fringes. The 220,000 sq ft Chiswell Street scheme has already been bought by BP for the oil group's own use. By 1985 around 1.2m sq ft of new office space will be completed in areas to the north and east of the City a quarter of which has already been pre-let.

Guardian Royal Exchange has leased the recently refurbished No. 3 South Place, London, EC2 at a rent of £15 per sq ft. The

building was refurbished by Haslemere Estates and Friends and covers 12,000 sq ft of offices on four floors. Ellis acted as letting agents and GRE was advised by Walker Son & Packman.

Schemes such as British Rail's proposed redevelopment of Liverpool Street Station covering around 800,000 sq ft of space and Trafalgar House's £24m project to transform the Angel area make up these fringe developments.

But what of the City itself? True there is little room for development but there are a number of rebuilding programmes under way such as the 80,000 sq ft refurbishment in Bury Street, EC3, 30,000 sq ft of new air-conditioned offices in Mitre Street, and Haslemere's 11,000 sq ft development on the corner of Bevis Marks and Bury Street.

These are all fairly small fry compared to the kind of demand for prime City accommodation over the next five years. Other pressures may drive current City users out to the fringe areas.

The last rate increase passed by the City of London Corporation pushed up the combined rent and rates demand for prime space by 13.6 per cent to a staggering £37.60 a sq ft; this is inclusive of service charge

which can add on a further £3.25 a sq ft, taking the cost of City offices to well over £40 a sq ft.

On this basis alone a secretary is costing a company between £6,000 and £8,000 purely for the space taken up by desks and filing cabinets a decent-sized executive's office costs his company as much as £24,000 a year.

With these considerations in mind many a corporation chairman may well consider seriously about moving away from the magical Square Mile, or at least relocating part of his operation which need not be accommodated at a prestigious address.

While others contemplate moving out there appears to be no shortage of those wishing to move in. Last year 35 foreign banks set up shop in the City taking the total to 383. Consultants Noel Alexander Associates forecast that in the current year a further 30 foreign banks will establish themselves in the City.

Despite technological innovations demand for the "correct" City address appears to continue unabated. While demand continues rents will continue to soar and the pressure on existing and new space will spread development to the fringes and to south of the Thames.

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INVESTMENT PROPERTY

The election Labour must be seen to win

It would be a political catastrophe for the Labour Party if it fails to regain control of the Greater London Council in the election on May 7.

The Conservatives, in control since 1977, would undoubtedly argue that their prudent, money-saving policies deserve recognition with a vote of confidence for the next four years, but in reality they cannot win. Only Labour can lose, and if it does, it will be the result of a reaction against its self-confessed and well-publicized programme of spending, with the inevitable consequence of yet more high rate increases.

By any other study of the entrails of the previous election, and the political swings since, the omens indicate a comfortable victory for the Labour Party.

In 1973, a good year for Labour with a Conservative government, in office, the party gained 58 seats, leaving the Conservatives with 32 and Liberals with two. The situation was reversed at the next election in 1977, giving the Conservatives 64 seats to 28 for Labour. A subsequent by-election win for Labour gives the present council composition of 63-29.

The tide had already begun to turn by the time of the 1979 general election, which for London gives an accurate reflection of the political feeling because the 92 seats for the GLC are exactly the 92 seats for the parliamentary seats for the area. By then the gap had narrowed, giving the Conservatives 50 seats and Labour 42, the seats changing hands shown in the accompanying table.

Compared with the 1977 GLC election Labour needs a swing of 9.5 per cent, but compared with the 1979 general election requires a swing of only 2.1 per cent. Thus, if the swing is consistent, a gain by Labour in Paddington, Hornchurch, Ealing North, Fulham and Ilford South will bring Labour back into power at County Hall by 47-45.

These five seats are key marginals for the party, along with several others the party would expect to win, including Woolwich West, Putney and Enfield North. The swing to Labour since the 1979 general election is roughly seven per cent at present, which could give the party a healthy majority of 18, leaving aside the Liberal challenge and that could be left aside as a Liberal is a confident of success in a handful of Conservative seats and hopeful of success in one Labour seat, Bethnal Green and Bow.

Recent council meetings have helped to build up the tension between the two main parties and exposed the severe differences between them over their policies for London. This process should also help the electorate, most of which knows little



Sir Horace Cutler: "A leader with charisma".

of the Greater London Council and its works, and cares less.

Sir Horace Cutler, the Conservative leader, has lost no time in branding the Labour manifesto as Marxist, and complaining of the huge cost of their policies if Labour are returned. At the same time he has been in the public gaze as much as possible, even running a few steps up to the line with competitors in the recent London marathon to gain valuable television coverage. He, if anyone, has brought the GLC to public notice and it could have an effect on the voting. "He is a leader with charisma," Conservative party officials happily say.

His jibes at the left-wing policies of the Labour group, formed over many months of deliberation and consultation with all parts of the party, including the constituencies and unions as well as the Labour group on the council, have left the candidates united, at least on the surface. But the comment of one moderate Labour candidate—"we are all left-wing now"—betrays the unease which some of them feel, and there is bound to be a power struggle if Labour wins.

Mr Andrew McIntosh, Labour group leader, defeated Mr Kenneth Livingstone, choice of the left-wing, by one vote last year. Mr Livingstone will challenge him again after the election.

The programme involves a reduction by one-quarter in London Transport fares, action to create 10,000 new jobs and the revival of the housing programme, which together will mean—as the group has openly stated—a supplementary rate

The balance of power in the GLC

Seats held by Labour		Conservative held GLC seats which showed last year at 1979 general election	
Newham South	0.2	Southall	8.0
Bromley	0.8	Dagenham	8.0
Bermondsey	1.2	Barking	8.1
Newham NW	1.8	St Pancras North	8.6
Peckham	2.1	Islington North	8.8
Hackney Central	2.7	Vauxhall	9.9
Brent South	2.8	Hackney North	10.1
Woolwich East	3.4	Islington South	10.3
Hackney South	4.5	Brent East	10.5
Bethnal Green	4.7	Islington Central	10.5
Tottenham	5.0	Walthamstow	11.5
Newham NE	6.7	Holborn and St Pancras	11.6
Battersea North	7.0	Lewisham West	13.3
Greenwich	7.2		
Deptford	7.2		
Lambeth Central	7.9		

Seats held by Conservatives showing percentage swing needed for Labour win	
Paddington	0.2
Hornchurch	0.8
Fulham	1.2
Ilford South	1.8
Putney	2.1
Woolwich West	2.7
Enfield North	2.8
Hampstead	3.4
Brentford NW	4.5
Hornsey	4.7
Harrow Central	5.0
Ilford North	6.7
Action	7.0
Streatham	7.2
Croydon Central	7.9
Beckenham	8.0
Chipping Barnet	8.0
Maylebone	8.1
St Albans	8.6
Harrow West	8.8
Westminster	9.9
Richmond	10.1
Twickenham	10.3
Southgate	10.5
Ruislip	10.5
Wansley	11.5
Ravensbourne	11.6
Sutton	13.3
Orpington	13.3
Chelsea	14.1
Croydon South	15.3

The party has been given a psycho-

logical lift by the fact that Lord Avebury, redoubtable politician and ever known for his Orpington triumphs, is to stand in Southall.

Liberals have hopes also in the other Richmond seat, Twickenham, at present occupied by Mr George Tremble, the GLC housing leader, and should do well in the Sutton seats, one of their past strongholds. They are also providing a powerful challenge in Bethnal Green and Bow where they have been working hard in recent years to win support on the council.

Estates ignored by the Labour councillors. They see it as a Liberal campaign on the Liverpool lines, working in the community, channelling complaints and getting things done. Their work could put the seat held by Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, in jeopardy.

The party has decided not to form any arrangement with the Social Democratic Alliance, which is fielding eight candidates, and instead has appealed for them to back the Liberals.

In London the SDA decided to fight against selected left-wing Labour candidates, with the hope of causing, at the least, embarrassment and at best the defeat of the Labour candidates. Dr Stephen Haseler, a former Labour GLC committee chairman, has gone so far as to declare that he will win. He is standing in Lambeth North against Mr Edward Knight, the Marxist leader of Lambeth council, who ought on form—or swing—to win.

As Dr Haseler, president of the SDA, mounts his challenge in Norwood, Mr Douglas Eden, secretary of the Alliance, another former GLC chairman, sets off to contest Islington South and Finsbury against Mrs Frances Morrell, former adviser to Mr Wedgwood Benn. Mr James Daly, a third former Labour GLC chairman, has gone to fight Mr Livingstone at Islington North, and has stood down, but hopes to sponsor an alternative candidate, and will continue to campaign for the party.

Complicating the issue slightly—and with varying impact—the Communist Party, the National Front and the Ecologist party are all fighting up to the hilt.

In an election traditionally known for its patchy polarization of the two main parties, the resurgence of the Liberals and the intervention of the Social Democrats, should create an almost heady excitement. It will only become a sensation if Labour fail to win control.

Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The freedom that is constantly at risk

When my first article appeared in *The Times* there were still classified advertisements on the front page, reporters and correspondents were discreetly anonymous, and the main feature article (known some-what obscurely as "the turn-over") dispensed its Delphic wisdom from the right hand corner page. On my first day in the comfortably run down premises at Printing House Square the court correspondent attended the editorial conference in full ceremonial dress, having come straight from a function at Buckingham Palace, and it was some time before I realized that these were not his everyday working clothes. I indulge in these somewhat nostalgic reminiscences because no man is an island, the caravan moves on the whirligig of time brings in its revenges, and this will be my last column in these pages.

My association with *The Times* over 20 years has been interrupted by two unnatural events—an industrial dispute which kept the paper off the streets, and six years in government, which did the same for me. The cryptic comment of the editor, Sir William Haley, on my departure in 1964 to be a Minister of the Crown was that I would miss two things—my freedom of action, and my influence on government policy. hindsight suggests that he was not altogether wide of the mark.

What is even less open to question is the influence of this great newspaper upon my own attitudes and perceptions. The rigorous discipline of having to write in a clear, concise, and comprehensible English about great issues which often involve moral uncertainties as well as obscure technical complexities, tends wonderfully to concentrate the mind; and the watchful presence of a community of editors, writers, and readers who are able to spot can, insincerity, or inconsistency instantly and without the aid of binoculars, provides a powerful deterrent against the persistent temptations of intellectual vagaries.

It is, therefore, with appropriate diffidence that I offer some parting reflections upon the matters which lie at the heart of much that I have been trying to say over the years. If I have seemed to some people to be disproportionately concerned with "the Soviet threat", I should explain that my preoccupation is not principally with the possibility of crude military aggression against the West, although, in the light of present events, and the prevailing balance of power, it would be unwise entirely to discount that particular danger. I am, however, not kept awake at night by the spectre of the Red hordes sweeping down to the light of peace events, and the night-mare is of a more subtle kind.

The Soviet Union is, for me, a symbol, ever present and forbidding, of the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of the totalitarian left. Marxism is a claustrophobic and depressing philosophy, and no nation which has built a political system upon its corrupt foundations, and has ceased in escaping the shadows of the prison house.

When a group of countries which has thus rejected the basic principles of human dignity comes together and provides itself with the most powerful military machine in history, it is perhaps not surprising that some of us should exhibit symptoms of acute anxiety. For quite apart from the explicitly proselytizing content of Marxism-Leninism, the evidence of Russian intentions is too obvious to ignore. Even those who are apparently unable to believe that the apostles of international Communism really mean what they say must find it difficult to reconcile their perception of a defensive, Pacific Soviet Union with the actual reality of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and Hungary in 1956, and Afghanistan in 1979. Perhaps it will require

Poland in 1981 to destroy their last illusion.

It is, however, not the infection outside which is the greater concern. It is the cancer within. This is not primarily a matter of hostile agents and those who consciously provide them with aid and comfort—although we harbour enough people in both categories to give genuine cause for concern. The more deadly virus is that which has brought about the progressive decay of our national spirit. It is a pervasive and potentially mortal disease.

Its most corrosive form is the fashionable contempt for any tradition which contains a suggestion of patriotism, authority, tradition, or dignity. The police, the judiciary, the monarchy and Parliament have become objects of derision, and the targets of third rate comedians aspiring to be satirists. We have come to accept the establishment as a term of abuse, as though it described some collection of odious and oppressive monsters. Because they seek to establish and preserve the standards of a civilized society, they are regarded as those who oppress and debase. Those standards are often revered, especially by the young. In this systematic corruption of values, the press and the broadcasting organizations cannot be entirely exonerated. For many years, the editors, producers and journalists who arrogate to themselves the role of magisterial arbiters, as though there was some kind of symmetry between those responsible for the preservation of an orderly system and those who are bent upon destroying it. They have forgotten, or perhaps they never knew, that in the words of a great Times editor of the past, "some things are evil, cruel and ugly, and no amount of good writing will make them good, kind, or beautiful".

One of the side effects of this debilitating malaise is a deterioration of excellence and the elevation of mediocrity into an ideal. The standards of the English-speaking world were based, has been invaded by bands of illiterates who disfigure programme after programme with careless grammar, sloppy syntax and the strangled howl-sounds of the resolutely uneducated. All this might be—and in some places certainly will be—dismissed as the prejudices of a disenchanted elitist; but the decline in standards has a deeper significance. It is symptomatic of the reluctance of many people in this country, and elsewhere in the West, to defend and preserve the values of their society. For me, the most precious of these is individual freedom: the right of everyone to act according to his own will and conscience provided he does not infringe the right of others to do the same. That freedom is constantly at risk, because civilization is the art of living together, and there must, therefore, always be balance and compromise. Apart from the sound and fury about nuclear weapons, terrorism, subversion and the Soviet threat, it has been the defence and preservation of individual liberty which has been my abiding concern over these years. I do not mean to say that I have not been concerned about other things, but my voice has sometimes been uncomfortably strident should reflect that the sleep of reason is a false repose. Those who succumb to it often awake in a barren landscape from which nothing can be reclaimed, and a prison camp. Many nations have taken their people that way: none has yet come back.

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Zimbabwe, now that the honeymoon is over

Salisbury So much has changed in Zimbabwe since independence a year ago yet so much, superficially at least, appears to remain the same.

The black gardener weeding a croquet lawn by hand or the black maid who comes running at the tinkle of a hand-bell are reminiscent of the colonial era which preceded Mr Ian Smith's attempt to keep Rhodesia white for the next 1,000 years. Yet the likelihood is that the gardener and the maid are now members of one of the workers' committees which have been set up by factory workers, farm labourers and even domestic servants around the country.

These committees are not, in fact, as fearsome as they sound. In most cases committee members continue to show due deference to their employers but now feel able to negotiate collectively on matters such as pay and conditions of service. But there are many visible signs of change. The pub in the little farming town of Enkeldoorn, once the meeting place for the area's predominantly Afrikaans-speaking farmers, is now patronized almost exclusively by blacks. The gun rack, where the white and black hunters shot their game and automatics before getting down to the serious business of drinking, is now empty except for a single umbrella. The white farmers still live in the area, but they drink at home.

Over in Maseru, in the mountainous eastern region near the Mozambique border, a white forester is finishing repairs on his house which was burnt out by Mr Robert Mugabe's Zania guerrillas during the independence war. The carpenter who is helping him to fix the roof is a former Zania platoon commander who led a number of attacks on white farms further north. There is no rancour between them, merely a shared desire to

continue the country's return to normal.

The changes which have taken place since independence are most apparent in the cities—Salisbury, Bulawayo and Umlali. There are many more blacks in the streets than there used to be, they are better dressed and they have more money to spend. And they seem to hold their heads high as if to show that the country is now theirs. Perhaps one of the main achievements of independence has been to give blacks a new sense of pride.

Blacks are now doing many of the things that whites do. They mingle in hotel foyers (although there are still restaurants where black faces are rarely seen), drive smart cars and sit behind large desks. Black children are thronging to what were formerly white schools, a trend which has alarmed some white parents, particularly when they find their children are in the same classroom as their domestic servants' children.

On the whole the changes have taken place with little evidence of racial animosity, and incidents of blacks throwing their weight around or taunting whites have been relatively rare. On the whole the blacks have shown themselves to be remarkably tolerant, commented a white civil servant.

Whites have also adapted well to their changed circumstances. Some of them openly concede that they are much better off than the present Government. Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister and now largely forgotten. A senior civil servant, who not long ago was fighting against Mr Mugabe's guerrillas but who now unblushingly talks about the "liberation war", epitomizes those whites who are trying to make a go of it in black Zimbabwe. It would be wrong, however, to suggest that the majority of

April 18 is the first anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence. In this, the first, of six articles, Nicholas Ashford, *The Times* Southern Africa correspondent, describes how citizens and Government are learning to cope with the problems facing the country.

whites are enthusiastic about the changes. They are happy that the war has stopped and that many of them are benefiting from the country's booming economy. But they are worried about declining (from their perspective) standards of education and health, the wild rhetoric used by some ministers and the sharp deterioration in law and order.

Some whites have decided to quit. More than 17,000 did so last year and whites are now leaving at the rate of 2,000 a month. This is not the exodus which some people predicted at the time of independence but it represents an alarming loss of skills at a time when the country's development is crying out for more trained and experienced personnel.

The shortage of trained manpower represents one of the biggest problems facing the Government and will be an important constraint on future economic growth. Zimbabwe is fortunate in its number of qualified blacks, but there are not nearly enough and many lack the technical skills which are so badly needed. One multinational corporation has tried to overcome this problem by advertising for technicians in Britain—and was overwhelmed by 32,000 replies.

As Mr Mugabe begins his second year in office his main concern remains the same as it has been for the past 12 months—the need to satisfy black aspirations, but at the same time retaining the confidence of the whites whose skills are required for the country's future economic stability. So far he has managed to

maintain this delicate balance with remarkable dexterity. However there are signs that a growing number of blacks are unhappy with his Government's performance and feel that Mr Mugabe has done more for whites than he has for them. It is not unusual these days to hear blacks make disparaging remarks about Government ministers; and it is not hard to understand their frustrations when, for example, the newspaper carry pictures of Mr Mugabe watching cricket at a Salisbury sports club.

Rising black discontent—which, it must be emphasized, is no way implies a threat to the Government at this stage—is due mainly to two factors: expectations are higher, far too high at the time of independence and many whites are seen to have retained their positions of privilege. There is also discontent over what is perceived to be an abuse of power by some of the country's new leaders.

The men who led the country's revolution and who still speak of the need to eradicate the gap between rich and poor can now be seen buying large houses, dining in fashionable restaurants and driving about in Mercedes cars. There is widespread talk about foreign exchange fiddles and the lining of pockets by some now in authority.

It is, in fact, unfair to blame the Government for failing to grapple with the issues which most affect blacks. An enormous amount has been achieved since the fighting stopped, not least the fact that the hard-won peace has been consolidated during

the Government's first year in office.

More than a million refugees and displaced persons have been resettled. Whole areas of the country which were virtually closed during the war have been opened up, roads have been repaired and bridges rebuilt. Life in most rural areas has returned to normal and many peasant farmers are planting crops again.

Some 400,000 people have benefited from the Government's emergency feeding programme. Tens of thousands of seed packs have been distributed so that peasants can produce their own food. Schools and clinics have been reopened and primary education is now free for about one million children and free health care has been introduced for people earning less than £100 a month. A minimum wage has been introduced.

These achievements are monuments for a country which has just emerged from seven years of civil war and for a Government which had no previous experience of administration. However the pressures will continue to build up for the Government to move faster towards creating a socialist, egalitarian and democratic society.

Another problem confronting Mr Mugabe during his second year in office will be the continuing problem of land. The Zania (PF) Party and the Patriotic Front led by Mr Joshua Nkomo, and more particularly between their respective armed supporters. But whereas a year ago the problem looked virtually insoluble, it now looks more manageable.

The fact that Mr Mugabe's Government has survived incessant squabbling between its two component parties as well as two major outbreaks of fac-

tional violence in Matabeleland is a sign that both Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo recognize the importance of avoiding an open rupture. There is also no doubt that Mr Mugabe has succeeded in consolidating his position by the swift and effective way he handled the insurrection in February by former Zania guerrillas and supporters of Mr Nkomo.

The continuing process of integrating former Zania and Zipsa guerrillas into the new national army should help to reduce tension between the two factions. Eighteen integrated battalions have already been established and it is hoped the integration process will be completed by the middle of this year. There will always remain a danger, however, that a confrontation between Zania (PF) and the Patriotic Front at a political level could provoke a racial split within the united army.

If the peace was consolidated and a start made on reconstruction during the first year of independence, the second year should provide a clearer idea of the real test of the country is headed, Mr Mugabe and his ministers still pronounce their belief in socialism yet their present policies are decidedly social democratic ones. The recent economic White Paper entitled *Growth and Equity* provides little indication that they will be radically changed.

Many of the problems which the Government will have to tackle during the coming year will be economic rather than political. How successful, for example, will it be in absorbing the huge amounts of foreign aid which will soon be flowing its way? How will it cope with inflation and the need to raise production? These are the real test of the Government's ability to run the country efficiently now that the post-independence honeymoon period is over.

But you should have heard the way he told them

New York I cannot remember if there was ever a book called *The Wit of President Reagan* or whether it was just a satirical suggestion. Certainly *The Wit of President Reagan* would be a plumper volume. And funnier? Not proven.

The papers here made a great deal last week of how the President had joked constantly with relatives, aides, doctors and nurses after coming so well through his operation to remove the bullet after the assassination attempt. It began with his telling his wife, Nancy: "Money, I forgot to duck." That shows at least that a long memory he has. The phrase was first used by the boxer Jack Dempsey after he was beaten by Gene Tunney in 1926.

Even when, his throat clutched with tubes, he was unable to speak, Mr Reagan wrote his jokes down—risky, since some depend on delivery and timing for their effectiveness. He scored his biggest success with another old quotation, from the comedian W. C. Fields: "All in all," he wrote, "I'd rather be in Philadelphia."

Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, is ambivalent about this joke, with its implication that although it is one of the most dreadful dumps the jester can think of, he would rather be there than where he is. It is not even fair: with its collection of eighteenth century buildings, it is one of the most interesting cities in the country.

Historians of humour are unclear where Fields got the quip from. Some believe it was made originally by one of Mr Reagan's predecessors, George Washington, who became dissatisfied with New York as the federal capital after he was chosen President in 1789. As a result of this chance remark, which he may have made to Alexander Hamilton, the capital was moved to Philadelphia.

A chronically restless man, Washington later made a joke that has survived less well: "Come to think of it, I'd rather be on the Potomac," he told Aaron Burr. It was then that the present-day capital was built and named after him.

Mr Reagan's sense of history showed through in another of the jokes he wrote on his pad. It was said to be a quotation from Winston Churchill, though I confess I have never come across it before. "There is no more exhilarating feeling than being shot without result."

The best humour is always laced with the sting of truth. The best enjoyed most may well have come from the presidential heart. "You'll be happy to know that the Government is running normally," an aide reported to him on the morning after the shooting.

"What makes you think I'd be happy about that?" he snapped back, as the official joke-recorders chuckled and scribbled it all down.

I know just what he meant. Since Mr Reagan has taken office, normal government has consisted chiefly of his aides squabbling about who is in charge. The insufferable Alexander Haig, always fussing about his status, had made another bid for power on the very day of the shooting, claim-



ing precedence over people who in fact had precedence over him.

That was certainly government as usual, and Mr Reagan was right to observe that he might not necessarily be happy about it. I noticed later that day, when he was asked whether Mr Haig should go ahead with his planned trip to the Middle

East, he replied "Yes" with scarcely a thought. The joke scribes did not on this occasion, tell us whether what he actually said was: "Yes, anywhere."

Commentators here have hailed all this merriment as a sign both of the President's courage—which it surely is—and of his spontaneous sense of humour, of which I am less convinced. My own belief that the jokes were written by a team of gag-writers in an adjoining hospital room was strengthened when a transcript came into my hands which has all the appearance of recording their deliberations. Here are some extracts from it, though I must emphasize that I do not vouch for the document's authenticity.

"Well, Jerry, how about a baseball joke?"

"No, Chuck, I don't think so. Nixon was always making baseball jokes and look what happened to him."

"That was football, Jerry. Carter made baseball jokes, but I take your point. Anyway, the season hasn't started yet."

"Don't forget, Chuck, that the eyes of the world are on us here in Washington. Foreigners never understand American sports, let alone jokes about them."

"I guess the same would apply to jokes about Philadelphia then, wouldn't it Jerry?"

"We can always fall back on those if we can't think of anything else. But with an international audience, why not a few about foreigners?"

"What..." (several expletives deleted). "Have you gone out of your tiny vaudeville mind? Don't you remember the New Hampshire primary last year when the boss never put himself out of the running by making a joke which offended Poles, Italians and Irish all in one go?"

"OK, Chuck, don't get your punch-lines in a twist. I remember that one well. One of my best. So how about George Bush?"

He writes his own, like Ford did.

"No, mean a joke about Bush. Couldn't we have the President writing on his pad:

"All right George, I know you did it."

"If you're going to plumb such depths of taste how about making him ask Bush: 'Who was that lobbyist I saw you with last night?'"

"Nancy would veto it, Chuck. Wouldn't wash with the moral majority."

"There's always jelly beans, of course."

"I think we've been overplaying the jelly bean jokes. Washington is awash with jars full of them. Frankly, they're a drug on the market."

"I don't agree. You can never overdo a good thing. Why not have him say to Nancy: 'I never saw anyone throw a jelly bean quite so hard?'"

"Chuck, I think we're into bad taste there again. We mustn't have anything that directly refers to the shooting. People would be offended. Take my wife..."

(Both together) "Please!"

"But seriously, Jerry, I don't agree. I think he should be talking about the shooting. It would make him seem relaxed,

able to laugh about it. How about that old Lincoln joke: '20 Apart from that, Mr Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?'"

"That's the one."

"Reagan couldn't say that to himself. It has to be said to him."

"We could do a variation: 'Apart from that, I had a very good lunch.'"

"I don't like it much, Chuck. Don't forget he was lurching with trade unionists. They probably gave him hotdogs."

"So it looks like we're stuck with Philadelphia, Jerry. W. C. Fields line about how he'd rather be there. It's not Woody Allen but it's in character and should be good for a titter. What's your next assignment, by the way?"

"I have to go to the Middle East with Haig and try to write a few laughs out of that. I suppose the President will be asked if he still wants him to go over and he'll answer: 'Any-where!'"

(Both together) "Any-where!"

Michael Leapman

THE TIMES
P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE COST OF INVASION

THE unexpected appearance of Brezhnev in Prague lends credence to the view that the Soviet Union is now following a policy of détente towards Poland. It is now following a pattern of behaviour which it adopted during the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968. Then, as now, there were successive Warsaw Pact summit meetings. Then, as now, there were arrangements in the Soviet press of a danger to proletarian internationalism. Then, as now, the gains of socialism were being threatened. Then, as now, the Warsaw Pact manoeuvres were being held in Poland. Then, as now, the Polish free trade union, Solidarity, was being crushed. Then, as now, the Polish free trade union, Solidarity, was being crushed. Then, as now, the Polish free trade union, Solidarity, was being crushed.

MOONIES AND THE LAW OF CHARITIES

THE jury which found for the *ally Mail* in the libel action brought against it by the Unification Church, or Moonies, added a rider to its verdict allowing for an investigation into the activities of the church on the grounds that it is a political organization. The Charity Commissioners have responded. They find that the church is a political organization. They find that the church is a political organization. They find that the church is a political organization.

David Wood: tethering oats for labour votes

LIFELONG Labour right-wing politician and trade unionist has some advice to offer to Mr Denis Healey. Now he has probably offered it out of an appropriate reply to Mr Healey's intention to contest the Labour Party leadership election. Mr Healey, he says, should not be too sure of himself. He should take care of the secretary-general of the Labour Party, Mr Denis Healey. He should take care of the secretary-general of the Labour Party, Mr Denis Healey. He should take care of the secretary-general of the Labour Party, Mr Denis Healey.

Religious charity law anomalies

FROM MR W. G. S. MASSEY
SIR, The jury's comments on the "Moonies" tax-free status as a charity (report, April 1), followed by the Charity Commissioners' decision to investigate the church, highlight the present anomaly in which the law relating to religious charities is itself, it is not open to the courts, having caused the anomaly, to cure it, but it is high time that Parliament did so.

State's role in appointment of bishops

FROM SIR HAROLD WILSON, MP for Houghton (Labour)
SIR, In view of some recent comments on the position of the Prime Minister in relation to Church appointments it is important that the facts be made clear. In the early months of 1976, discussion was proceeding between the church authorities and the 10 Downing Street official responsible for these matters, about the changes which the Church wanted to see implemented. The proposal was that the church should have a say in the appointment of a suffragan bishop. In February, representatives, lay and clerical, came to see me and I suggested that, whenever he considered necessary, the Prime Minister should be free to ask for a third name—and that in any case he should not be committed to selecting and submitting the first on a list.

Hero's resting place

FROM MR S. SOBONIEWSKI
SIR, I am writing on behalf of the Council of Polish Ex-servicemen's Organizations, a collective body representing over 42,000 members of Free Polish Ex-servicemen's Association in the United Kingdom. The present resting place of our Supreme Commander-General Sikorski is amongst his fellow soldiers in the Polish Cemetery in Newbury. It is a symbol of our unending struggle for the liberation of our homeland. To permit the removal of his remains to a Russian-dominated Poland at this stage would be a betrayal of the thousands of Free Poles living in the West and would be a political manoeuvre. The Communist-dominated Government of Poland for over 20 years tried to eradicate the name of General Sikorski from Polish history books and we are anxious to see that the remains of General Sikorski should be left undisturbed until Poland is governed by authorities chosen by the nation.

Computer sensibility

FROM PROFESSOR D. F. LAWLEN
SIR, Having been startled to discover that computers can now do what I can do, namely mathematics and science, Bernard Levin (April 2) complacently assures us that we need have no fear that they will ever be able to feel emotions, and express them through poetry and music. This view is based on the fact that computers are not yet able to do what I can do, namely mathematics and science. Bernard Levin (April 2) complacently assures us that we need have no fear that they will ever be able to feel emotions, and express them through poetry and music. This view is based on the fact that computers are not yet able to do what I can do, namely mathematics and science.

Support for Attingham

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL TRUST
SIR, Your report (April 4) of Dr Strong's refusal to allow junior members of the Victoria and Albert Museum to receive scholarships for the Attingham Summer School this year makes sad reading. There are all too few chances for young museum staff to widen their horizons and to meet colleagues from other museums and universities throughout this country, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, to whose staff we are immensely grateful. It is a pity that the Victoria and Albert Museum staff are not given the opportunity to do so. There are all too few chances for young museum staff to widen their horizons and to meet colleagues from other museums and universities throughout this country, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, to whose staff we are immensely grateful.

Suitable home for Tunncliffe works

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES
SIR, I should like to express my gratitude for the space you have given to the recent correspondence which has been prompted by the proposal to sell at public auction the late Charles Tunncliffe's measured drawings and sketchbooks. The National Museum of Wales has so far refrained from making any public statement because the architect has no locus in the matter. Nevertheless, in view of the obvious public anxiety about the future of the collection and its possible dispersal, I would like to clarify the position of the Museum.

Aspect of Beverley Minster

FROM MR RICHARD WILSON
SIR, Mr David Crease (April 2) quotes the Bull School of Architecture report. He did not reveal that it firmly states that the entire south elevation of Beverley Minster should remain open. This open aspect to the south is what is distinctive about the setting of Beverley Minster. Mr Crease also knows that no one has ever opposed the proposed plan to reveal the street scene. Indeed, many have fought for it. It is dismayed to find therefore that a third of the street has been sold by the council for speculative development designed by Mr Crease.

Sexual equality

FROM MRS P. M. HURFORD
SIR, Even the chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission manages to miss the point in part of her otherwise splendid letter (March 25). She suggests that boys deserve the chance to learn domestic science skills so that they may become better husbands and fathers. Of course, boys should be encouraged to learn domestic skills; but the aim of this must be to increase their own independence and satisfaction as people. It is a bonus when this helps them as husbands and fathers too. Do let us avoid casting men into roles just as we are striving to free women from this. Role-casting diminishes the opportunities for men and at the same time undermines the possibilities for women. For the two are indeed interdependent. Yours faithfully, PATRICIA M. HURFORD, Broom House, St Bernard's Road, St Albans, Herts. AL3 4JL. March 25.

Balance of power

FROM PROFESSOR R. A. HARDISTY
SIR, Sir John Boreham (April 2) underestimates the incidence of his powerful dates: there are in fact 57 (not 39) days in every century when the day, raised to the power of the number of the month, equals the last two digits of the year. So much for government statistics. But today's babies have a much more exciting date to look forward to: November 2, 2048. This will be the first occasion since March 12, 1728 on which the answer to Sir John's sum is the whole year, and not merely its terminal digits. Yours faithfully, R. M. HARDISTY, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C1.

The first split

FROM MR IVOR LUCAS
SIR, Is there already a split in the new Social Democratic Party? The photograph on the front page of your March 27 issue shows Messrs Jenkins, Owen and Rodgers wearing SDP badges on the left, while Mrs Williams has hers pinned on the right. Yours faithfully, IVOR LUCAS, Ambassador to Oman, British Embassy, Muscat, March 29.



Dr Leonard carries the burden of great expectations

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Whatever the merits of the way the decision was reached, the Church of England has in Dr Graham Leonard a man with the capacity to be a great Bishop of London; the most, his strongest critics would say, is that it would be the wrong sort of greatness. His supporters look to the future with enthusiasm and excitement. He is precisely the man they were looking for.

It is no accident, in fact, that the detailed specification drawn up by the Vacancy in See Committee of the London Diocese fits him like a glove, as he was uppermost in the minds of those who drafted it. As the date of the retirement of Dr Gerald Ellison, a formidable man himself, drew nearer, it was plain that Dr Leonard's name would dominate the issue. He now carries the burden of great expectations.

The tension behind his

appointment, is a manifestation of the tension in the Church of England itself, between a traditional, conservative Anglicanism, and a more liberal, more socially conscious Anglicanism. Dr Leonard, a conservative Anglo-Catholic, finds himself in the company of conservative Anglicans against liberal Anglicans. It is not so remarkable, therefore, that his selection was warmly welcomed both by the Church Society, the main Anglican evangelical organization, and by the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Cardinal Hume should get on well with him, and there is a mutually stimulating relationship ahead for the two leaders of the two largest churches in the capital.

But there is more to Dr Leonard than a summary of his attitudes on currently contentious matters, and his place

in the most conspicuous figure among the conservative Anglo-Catholic group. He is an intellectual, with the shyness misunderstood as coldness by those who are not familiar with him at close range. The warmth felt by those who know him well is a bit of a surprise at first, as is his refusal to discuss the views of those he disagrees with. He is accused of being inflexible, but he is a good listener. He was asked early last week what he thought about his reputation as a hard man, and said it must have something to do with his eyebrows. Asked about homosexuality among the clergy, he refused to get the problem out of proportion and described it as a "pastoral" requiring an individual approach rather than a public condemnation. He thought the Church of England might well one day accept women for ordination; but he doubted if he would ever come to terms with it.

He disclosed a hitherto unsuspected passion for church unity and regretted that he always seemed to be putting obstacles in the way. He smokes a pipe, enjoys a joke, and occasionally seems to be bubbling with suppressed pleasure. Talking about his years in Truro, one of the furthest dioceses from London, he enthuses about his personal relationships with Free Church people. If Truro was a period of exile, as has been suggested, he seems to have borne it without a shred of resentment. He was responsible for the most important piece of his life to lead as one of British Rail's best long-distance customers. He combined his leadership of the church in Cornwall with the chairmanship of the Board for Social Responsibility, a job he has no intention of giving up, and that required him to be at Church House sometimes as often as twice a week. If he is hard, he is hard on himself.

The board staff like him, even when he is being, as they sometimes say, "difficult". The real problem he faces in London, he said, is in the realm of the spirit. There was an anonymity in large cities that had broken down the sense of community; and there was a remoteness from the experience of nature that came to those who lived in the countryside. Those factors put God at a distance, leaving people to feel they were on their own in a not very friendly environment. He hoped he could have an impact, and would not be content to leave the spiritual state of London much as he found it. And it is in that realm, it can be said, that Dr Leonard is most comfortable: the controversies are things that have happened to him rather than things he has made happen. Except, of course, that in every case he could have compromised, and did not think it right to do so. He is, in a nutshell, sure of himself.

OBITUARY MR JUAN T. TRIPPE Forceful American aviation leader for over 40 years

Mr Juan T. Trippe, who, in 1927, at the age of 28, was appointed president and general manager of Pan American Airways and remained as chief executive until 1968, and who was one of the foremost leaders in flying in the world, died in New York on April 3. He was 81.

A pioneer, especially of over-ocean flying, Trippe built up an extensive system covering most of the globe across the Atlantic and the Pacific with air routes served by his well-known machines which bore the name of Clippers.

In 1955 he gave an order for 45 jet aircraft for his company at a cost of \$269m to mark the beginning of American aviation's venture into the age of jet travel. In doing so, he said, "I was not only a pioneer in aviation development, since Lindbergh's [Atlantic] flight. I was one of the first to see the future of the world."

On his return Trippe made up his mind to take chief flying. In 1922 he started Long Island Airways, which possessed seven aircraft, and was president and chief pilot and frequently a mechanic as well. He often worked 16 hours a day, but persistence began to bear fruit and in 1926 he was able to launch a more ambitious scheme as general manager of Colonial Air Transport which received the first air mail contract.

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Both sides claim victory in farm price deal

"The fixing by the Ten of farm prices by the deadline of April 1", *Le Monde* said on its front page on Thursday, "definitely marks a success for President Giscard d'Estaing. The British, who could have made trouble for M. Ménézière, the French Minister of Agriculture, refrained from doing so."

M. Ménézière said in Brussels that he had concluded a swift and assured agreement with the European Community on the basis of its customary three-monthly price-fixing. French sources said their government's policy of a "revolving door" of one green pound was of small importance against its success in securing a change in the value of the green franc.

It was not quite how it appeared to Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who would resist any such move by the French President and his advisers.

He would attend a reception at Buckingham Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard Award and attend a dinner of the Royal Agricultural Society at the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association silver jubilee dinner at the Connaught Rooms.

20: The Duke of Edinburgh, as guest of honor, will attend the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association silver jubilee dinner at the Connaught Rooms.

21: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Royal Victoria Hospital, Balmain, Scotland, on Saturday.

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Farming and food

Hugh Clayton

The French Minister of Agriculture said their number one aim in the process of fixing EEC farm prices was to obtain a "revolving door" of one green pound was of small importance against its success in securing a change in the value of the green franc.

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Royal engagements

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MR W. J. OWEN

Mr William James (Will) Owen, former Labour MP for Morpeth, Northumberland, who was elected to the House of Commons in 1950, died on April 5. He was 80.

The eldest of 10 children, Owen was educated at an elementary school in Blaina, Monmouthshire, and went into the pits with his father. He then went to the Central Labour College on a miners' scholarship, later becoming tutor and organizer for the National Council of Labour Colleges.

Owen was secretary of the ILP in Leicester from 1922 to 1935, and the first councillor there from 1933 to 1938. He worked in the Co-operative movement in Burslem, London and Bristol, and during the Second World War he was an ARP instructor and an Army education officer. From 1948 to 1951 he was a community welfare officer with the National Coal Board, and then became general secretary of the master tailors' organization in the East End of London.

Labour unsuccessfully in 1950 and 1951, but won Morpeth in a by-election in 1954. In the Co-operative movement he had contacts with the Russian co-operative organization, and

After being elected to Parliament, he played a notable role in the self-financing of the benches by the all-party East-West Trade Committee and a chairman of the Anglo-German Democratic Republic group. In these positions, he organized visits by British MPs to East Germany and other countries behind the iron curtain.

Owen was a member of a House of Commons Estimates Committee, and at the C. Bailey trial it was alleged that he passed to a second secretary, an official of the Czechoslovak Embassy, classified information revealed to the committee but not published in its reports. For this part Owen denied that any information was classified, and said that most of it was openly available in blue books and official reports. Nevertheless, he was fined £2,300 from the Czechs in a period 1961-69, "for expenses."

Acquitted of the charges, Owen was later ordered to pay £2,000 towards the cost of his defence, which was under legal aid. He resigned his parliamentary seat before the case came to trial, saying that he would not be standing for re-election in Parliament because of ill-health.

He was an extremely happy man, possibly happy because of his wife, Marjorie. He was a thinker. He admitted that the 31 years he spent as a prisoner of war in a Japanese camp had made him revise his whole life philosophy, and withdraw into the world of spirit. Certainly, in his presence one was aware of an enviable detachment from material things.

One was edified by his strength of character, combined with humility. One was struck by his gentle wisdom, and was touched by his almost of fashioned standards of right and honour.

There was an inspiration in his idealism which sprang from deep religious conviction. He carried him serenely through three years of intense suffering. Even during his terminal illness it drove him to write two books, one the history of the Downer family, the other on six prime ministers he had known intimately.

He was blessed with a wonderful family — his wife Marjorie, three daughters, and a son who, like his father, was a grand old man. He was an MP in the Federal Parliament.

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Stock markets

FT Ind 539.6
FT 100 70.06

Sterling

\$2.2055
Index 99.5

Dollar

Index 101.1
DM 2.1220

Gold

\$523.50

Money

3 month sterling 121.12
3 month Euro-S 141.141
6 month Euro-S 141.141

Fridays close

Textiles industry in 'state of siege'

The textile industry must now consider itself in a state of siege. It had become a beleaguered outpost in the United Kingdom's industrial wasteland, Nicholas Winterbottom, Conservative MP for Macclesfield and chairman of the all-party group textiles and clothing, told the House of Commons. Political guerrilla tactics are now the order of the day, he said. The industry is no longer coming to him with its problems in terms of industrial relations, he said. Given the Government's resistance in its chosen economic path, he declared, he could be at all optimistic about the textile industry's future. Mrs Margaret Jackles, a member of the executive board of the National Union of Textile and Garment Workers, a written to Mrs Thatcher complaining about her refusal to set the union and expressing concern at the prospect of the loss of 100,000 jobs in the industry the next year. She called on Prime Minister to remove AT on clothing and reduce interest rates and the value of sterling.

EEC designer to retire

John McCallum, chief designer of the QE2, will retire on 30 as Lloyd's Register's ship surveyor, a post he held since 1970. As naval architect and technical director of John Brown and Company Clydebank, in the 1960s, he designed many ships, including the QE2.

waited denial
Saikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, Iraq's oil minister, denied reports that Kuwait was trying to force Iraq to buy 1.5 million barrels of oil. Kuwait has complete control on oil and has been imposing own (sales) conditions, he said.

land credit move
Because of a deteriorating national picture in Poland, these exchange banks have recently refused to buy rrl bills and export letters of credit from trading houses goods shipped to Poland.

brat contract
Lawyer Sidley Power Engineering, of Burton on Trent, Leicestershire, is to design and construct a £6.7m ferry station for the Gibraltar ferry department.

lation warning
Construction Surveyors' rate says that higher inflation could return with the end of the recession, because of the construction industry been run down by the Government's economic policies.

ports to France
Francis Missotto, the French trade negotiator, has been in Tokyo to discuss economic and trade problems, including Japanese car exports, since March.

EEC seeks end to freeze on American aid for poorest countries

From Peter Norman
Brussels, April 5

The European Community is to press the United States to end the freeze on granting low-cost development assistance to the poorest countries. At a meeting over the weekend outside the Dutch town of Breda, Community finance ministers said that Washington had not made the payments it promised to the International Development Association (IDA). This affiliate of the World Bank is the single most important source of concessional development finance to low income countries.

Last week it was forced to halt lending because the United States has failed to complete a procedure to pay \$3,240m (£1,472m) to the IDA over the next three years.

Mr Alfons van der Stoep, the Dutch finance minister, presided over the meeting as a brainstorming session ahead of next month's meeting in Gabon of the interim and development committees of the International Monetary Fund.

Also discussed was the gloomy outlook of the European economy, concluding that countries such as Italy and Belgium with automatic wage indexation, would have to introduce changes to achieve inflation-free growth. But perhaps surprisingly, in view of the planned meeting in London next weekend of the "Big Five" finance ministers of the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan and France, there appeared to be no detailed discussions of proposals for a transatlantic dialogue to stabilize interest rates.

Nor, according to Mr van der Stoep, did the ministers discuss the recent strains imposed on the European monetary system through the intense speculation on a possible devaluation of the Belgian franc.

Mr Rene Monory, the French economics minister, chairman of the International Monetary Fund's interim committee, repeated there was no immediate need for the IMF to resort to the capital market to raise finance.

Although large increases in fund lending have created liquidity problems and difficulties in finding cash for the poorest developing countries,



Mr Alfons van der Stoep: differences exist between member states over interest rates.

he said that the IMF had just concluded arrangements with Saudi Arabia that could add \$16,000m to its resources, and was also borrowing from the Bank for International Settlements.

When attention focused on the general economic condition of Europe, the ministers apparently agreed that there was greater need for medium-term supply side economic policies and higher business profitability.

Although the question of high worldwide interest rates may be raised in London next week, it was felt that it was too early to define a European standpoint. Mr van der Stoep conceded that differences still exist between member states.

The European monetary committee and the committee of central bank governors has been charged with reconciling the differences which range from scepticism on the part of many central banks and those member states committed to monetary policies to the enthusiasm expressed in Maastricht by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The meeting appeared not to discuss a new recycling proposal put forward by Herr Schmidt and M Raymond Barre, the French prime minister in Bonn last week that West Germany and France may raise a large joint loan from Opec countries.

Pru clears hurdle in its bid for Bache

By Michael Priest

An important obstacle to the \$385m (£175m) bid by Prudential Insurance of America, one of that country's biggest insurance companies, for Bache Group, a leading United States financial services company, was removed on Friday when the takeover was approved by Mr James Sheeran, the New Jersey state insurance commissioner.

Prudential's bid was agreed between the two companies last month. The offer is worth \$32 for each Bache share and stands until April 17, although it could be extended. Bache has among its subsidiaries Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, one of Wall Street's biggest brokerage houses.

Mr Sheeran could have blocked the takeover because Prudential has its headquarters in Newark, New Jersey. Prudential's spokesman said: "It is an important step towards what we believe will be a successful conclusion to our quest of acquiring Bache."

The spokesman added that Prudential had also made other financial regulatory authorities. Although these authorities do not have to approve the takeover they can raise questions which might delay the transaction, expected to be completed by June.

Prudential has assets of \$50,000m, and its proposed takeover is widely regarded in America as opening the way for diversification of the services offered by other financial institutions such as banks.

Bache has many customers across the country and overseas, and it will be able to sell the takeover to its shareholders. Prudential Banks are prohibited from buying brokerage houses but they are trying to have the ruling changed.

While Bache is a publicly-traded stock Prudential is not. One reason for Bache agreeing from scepticism on the part of many central banks and those member states committed to monetary policies to the enthusiasm expressed in Maastricht by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The meeting appeared not to discuss a new recycling proposal put forward by Herr Schmidt and M Raymond Barre, the French prime minister in Bonn last week that West Germany and France may raise a large joint loan from Opec countries.

Employers gloomy on jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

An overwhelming majority of employers in both the public and private sectors do not expect output to increase in the coming six months, according to a new survey of United Kingdom industry and commerce. Many public sector employers predicted that production will stagnate for at least another year.

The survey, conducted by the Manpower employment agency, shows that 73 per cent of employers believe their workloads will not increase before the autumn.

Among the 1,400 employers surveyed 11 per cent expected to increase their staff in the next three months compared with 17 per cent at the same time a year ago. Job cuts are forecast by one in four employers.

China and Russia facing substantial grain shortage

By Our Commodities Correspondent

Warnings that China and the Soviet Union could again be substantial importers of wheat and other foodgrains in the 1981-82 crop year have been given by the International Wheat Council and by Cargill, a leading grain trader.

But on a more optimistic note, the IWC, which coordinates information about wheat consumers and producers, has raised its estimate of the 1981-82 world harvest by one million tonnes to 446 million tonnes. It also still believes that a 1981-82 harvest of 470 million tonnes is possible.

The crop year runs from April 1. China is suffering from serious food shortages in two provinces, Hubei and Hebei, and the IWC estimates that in 1980-81 the country imported a record 13 million tonnes of wheat. But despite generally favourable prospects for sowings and weather in the new crop year, the IWC says that China's grain purchases, particularly wheat, are likely to remain high.

The IWC suggests that a switch in eating habits away from grains such as rice and millet, lack of storage capacity, and poor transport, hindering movement of grain from surplus to deficit areas, have caused the country to ask for grain grants for the first time in over 30 years.

Imports by the Soviet Union, however, are expected to be large. Cargill has estimated that between October 1980 and September 1981 the Soviet Union will buy about 35 million tonnes of grain.

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Tory call for faster BSC 'break-up'

By Peter Hill

New measures which would accelerate the pace at which the British Steel Corporation bives off many of its activities into separate companies to secure fairer competition between the public and private sectors of the industry are being urged on the Government.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, is under pressure from an influential group of Tory backbench MPs to take powers which would enable him to direct the corporation to form separate companies for many of its operations, especially where they compete directly with private steel companies.

The move reflects growing disquiet among independent steelmakers, steel stockholders and MPs, at the British Steel's aggressive marketing and pricing policy which they

believe amounts to the corporation using state subsidies to secure business at the expense of the private sector.

British Steel has denied these allegations. Mr Ian McGregor, chairman, has said that the policy is meant to match the price at which imported steel is being sold in Britain.

In a bid to defuse the criticism, the Government has already established mechanisms to monitor complaints made about unfair pricing, and it has also encouraged the corporation to make its activities more "transparent" by forming companies as subsidiaries to run some of its present businesses.

Two large companies were incorporated from the beginning of this month. One has been formed to run the corporation's Stanton & Staveley pipe-making operations and the



Mr Michael Grylls: Leading backbench critic of steel Bill. stockholding company—British Steel Service Centres—which in some product areas commands about 15 per cent of the market

has also been reorganised along private sector lines. But backbenchers, led by Mr Michael Grylls, MP, chairman of the Conservative industry committee, have tabled an amendment to the Iron and Steel Bill, which will be considered at the committee stage tomorrow.

The amendment, if accepted, would enable Sir Keith to direct the Steel corporation to form separate companies to carry on its activities in the production of cold rolled strip, spring steel flats, heavy forgings, tubes, stainless steel bars, and any other activities as may be prescribed.

The Bill provides the framework under which British Steel effectively could be liquidated if the latest survival plan fails. Once enacted, the Bill will enable the Government to write off £3,500m of capital immediately, with provision for a £1,000m write off.

Report will back private telecom networks

By Bill Johnstone

A report out tomorrow is expected to back the formation of private network telecommunications services in competition with British Telecom.

The report, the result of a study by Professor Michael Beesley, of the London Business School, is expected to call on the Government not to inhibit the formation of alternative networks, like that being planned by Cable and Wireless. It is also expected to be sympathetic to a relaxation of the financial

restrictions at present placed on British Telecom.

The report was commissioned by the Department of Industry at the end of last year, and business is expected to push to have its recommendations implemented.

The opponents of alternative "value-added" telecommunications services have pointed out that the private sector will only operate in highly profitable areas.

A recent study by the Post Office engineering union said that "common sense would

suggest that the specialised common carriers, who are under no obligation to provide services to any particular customer will choose the more profitable routes—for instance, those between the larger urban centres."

The union insists that, if the Government is to promote value-added services and specialised common carriers, then an appropriate tariff structure must be designed to protect the revenues of British Telecom. The Government will not adopt any of the Beesley conclusions until it has gauged the political atmosphere. The debate on the Telecommunications Bill in the Commons last week precipitated pledges from the Opposition that such legislation could well be reversed by an incoming Labour Government.

The Beesley report will also reopen the debate on how British Telecom should be funded. The Treasury has not given approval to British Telecom to raise an extra £350m by issuing performance-related bonds.

£2m rise in subsidy for training

By Edward Townsend

The Construction Industry Training Board, which is threatened with closure under the Government's review of statutory industrial training, is to increase the total grant on offer to employers who give training to £46.8m, a rise of £2m on the current year.

In a statement being issued today, the board says that the increase continues the policy of recognising the need to give training-conscious employers considerable financial assistance with increasingly high costs. But it also gives a warning that the levy on employers may be forced up in future because of a possible reduction in state support.

Only about one in five companies within the board's scope claims training grants, although all construction companies are said to use skilled labour.

In the 1980-81 training year, the Government is providing about £10m towards the £46.8m of grants being offered to construction employers. The board says that future public assistance is uncertain but that it can honour its commitments to employers on grants for approved training, at least for 1981-82.

The board has confirmed its levy rates for 1981. These are imposed on employers which do not carry out training, and are expected to raise £43.8m where, with government aid yet to be agreed, will pay for training grants and the board's national training centres.

About £41.5m of the 1981-82 grants will be for training of young people entering the industry. The board says that recruitment of apprentices for first-year "off the job" training in 1980-81 is some 2,000 below the target of 15,000, and further decline is forecast.

The board added that it could give no indication of the per capita levy rates for 1982 because of the uncertainties and the proposed transfer of a individual board operating costs from the Exchequer to individual industries.

Forecasters condemn 'deflationary' Budget

By Frances Williams

Last month's Budget, coupled with measures announced in November, add up to a savage deflationary package which will depress output, push unemployment well over 3 million and swell public spending through higher social security payments and weaker nationalized industry finances.

This dismal picture, painted by the stockbroking firm Phillips & Drew in their latest set of economic forecasts published today, directly contradicts the recent assertion by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that the Budget is not contractionary. But it is in line with predictions made by other organizations, including the Confederation of British Industry, which published its own gloomy forecast last week.

Phillips & Drew estimate that about £7,000m will be taken out of the economy in the coming year as a result of the two sets of measures, with only a limited offset from the cut in interest rates (worth about £700m to industry) and any fall in the value of sterling.

Well over half this huge cut in demand—some £4,500m—will come from individuals facing higher National Insurance contributions, higher income tax because of failure

to adjust allowances in line with inflation, and higher duty on petrol, alcohol and tobacco.

The consequence will be to depress real after-tax incomes further and curb the only buoyant source of demand in the recession up to now—consumer spending. This will delay economic recovery.

They predict unemployment, including school leavers will reach three million unadjusted before the end of this year and rise to 3.3 million by the end of 1982.

Phillips & Drew suggest that output may stop falling in the second quarter of this year, only to level off with no sustained recovery in sight. Output is forecast to fall by more than 3 per cent between 1981 and 1980, compared with the Treasury's prediction of 2 per cent.

On inflation, Phillips & Drew expect the annual rate to fall to around 101 per cent by the end of the year from 121 per cent in February, despite a leap in the Retail Price Index for March and April resulting from Budget and other measures. Single figure inflation is expected for a while next year.

But an upturn in inflation is forecast later in 1982, with sterling expected to weaken, higher oil and commodity prices and companies trying to rebuild eroded profit margins.

White goods deliveries low

By Our Commercial Editor

Deliveries by manufacturers of "white goods" kitchen appliances remained at a low level in January despite a strong share of the January sales.

This was reported by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances, which believes retailers have been meeting the increased demand from stocks such as hairdryers, heated rollers and dry shavers have remained buoyant.

machines have been selling in greater numbers, and tumble dryers also have been in demand.

Direct comparisons between maker's deliveries this January and those in the same month last year are misleading because of heavy stocking by retailers in 1980 in the face of a prospective steel crisis.

But all key product area deliveries were still down this January. Only sales of products such as hairdryers, heated rollers and dry shavers have remained buoyant.

The Japanese turn tables and offer Western managers a lesson or two Why Sony stays profitable—even in Britain

Mr Akio Morita, co-founder of the Sony Corporation and now its chairman and chief executive, is intensely proud of Sony's production facilities in Britain. He smiles broadly as he talks about his company winning a Queen's Award for exports. Sony is profitable "even in Britain," he jokes.

He made his first business trip to the United States in 1953, arriving in New York as a student eager to learn as much as possible as quickly as possible, about Western management approaches. Now Mr Morita constantly finds himself surrounded on his foreign trips by managers eager to learn from him. The tables have been turned and he enjoys the role of the teacher.

He believes Japanese management systems can be adapted abroad and that the high quality products being made at

Sony plants in the United States and the United Kingdom, which he claims are just as good as ones made in Japan, demonstrate that he is right. Motivating workers and convincing them that they have a real interest in the long-term success of their companies lies at the heart of Mr Morita's management philosophy.

At a meeting of American and Japanese businessmen in Washington the Sony chief noted that on April 1 the company gave jobs to another 1,000 people who could look forward to 30 years or more working with Sony. He described these employees as "our new friends, the new members of our family."

He recalled how delighted and surprised he was in 1960, just after establishing the Sony Corporation of the United States, to discover that he could dismiss employees in America. He had never dismissed anyone in his life. Then he was equally surprised, he noted, to discover that some of his top United States managers were leaving Sony to join a rival company. This had never happened either to Mr Morita in Japan.

The Sony chief concluded that perhaps the Japanese personnel management system was better. He stressed that every Sony worker was acutely aware that they all shared the same



Mr Akio Morita: Motivation of workers is his philosophy.

future. They knew that the company's success would secure the future prosperity of every employee. Nobody needed to fear unemployment. "We could not fire people if demand is low and there is a recession. We are all in the same ship together. They are not guilty of causing the recession," Mr Morita said.

He stressed that every effort was made to ensure engineers spent as much time as possible in factories supervising production, meeting with line workers and hearing what they had to say about improving production processes. Morale among all employees is outstandingly high and everyone feels he can contribute to Sony and even

one feels he can be promoted right to the top of the company.

It might sound a little too wonderful to be true and Mr Morita is well known as a super-salesman. But many of the shrewd American businessmen listening to his views and argued that the Japanese were probably far ahead of everyone else when it came to labour-management relations and worker motivation.

The striking thing at this meeting of businessmen was the degree to which roles had been reversed, with Americans now the students and Japanese the teachers. Mr Thomas Vandervelde, president of General Telephone and Electronics, for example, was emphatic that western managers needed to go to Japan more often to learn the ways in which the Japanese managed their employees.

Mr Douglas Danforth, vice-chairman and chief operating officer of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, believed the Japanese could teach us all a great deal about the best ways to reduce costs.

Mr Kazuo Aichi, parliamentary vice-minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan, noted that in industry it was increasingly the case that managers needed not so much the muscles but the brains of their workers. In this area the Japanese have a lot to teach managers everywhere.

Frank Vogt in Washington

Sales volume maintained in a particularly difficult year

Main points from the Statement by the Chairman, David B. Clark

• The increased export turnover from £6,061,000 to £5,982,000 represents once again a record in both value and volume. This increase has been achieved in spite of the high value of sterling and the greater strength of international competition.

• Taking together both our home and export business we were able to maintain our sales volume in what has been a particularly difficult year.

• We have decided to recommend a final dividend of 5.0p per share, making a total of 70p per share for the year as a whole.

• The revaluations of fixed assets totalled £21,651,000 and have been incorporated in the balance sheet for the first time at a surplus of £1,603,000. These revaluations and a revised basis for depreciation have reduced the depreciation charge for 1980 by £350,000.

• In July at a major repair the output of one of our Bamsley furnaces was increased by 25% and new production equipment was installed. The cost of this development was £1,000,000.

• During the year we have joined with other glass manufacturers to stress to the government the damage which is caused by its energy pricing policy. The excise tax on a tonne of heavy fuel oil is ten times higher than in France and more than twice that in Germany and in Holland.

For a full copy of the Report and Accounts write to: The Secretary, Beatson Clark & Company Limited, 23 Moorgate Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire S60 2AA.

The year at a glance

	1980 £000	1979 £000
SALES		
Home	19,221	16,392
Export & Overseas	7,293	6,061
	26,514	22,453
PROFIT		
Before Tax	1,249	1,729
Taxation	163	(83)
After Tax	1,086	1,612
Dividends	397	476
Retained in the business	689	1,336
Earnings per share	19.2p	34.1p
Dividends per share	7.0p	8.4p

Notes: The calculation of earnings per share is based on earnings of £1,086,000 (£1,612,000) on 5,684,427 (weighted average of 5,317,000) ordinary shares. The results for 1980 include the consolidation for the first time of our Australian subsidiary which we acquired on 25 September 1979.

The accounting policies for depreciation of fixed buildings and renewals of furnaces were changed in the period. Consequently the comparative figures for 1979 have been revised.

BEATSON CLARK

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
alia S	1.58	1.90	Norway Kr	12.50	11.85
da Sch	35.00	32.80	Portugal Esc	128.00	122.00
da S	83.50	79.50	South Africa Rd	2.04	1.90
da S	2.67	2.58	Spain Pt	194.00	185.00
zark Kr	15.40	14.63	Sweden Kr	10.85	10.10
nd Mikk	9.59	9.05	Switzerland Fr	4.46	4.23
ce Fr	11.42	8.92	US \$	2.26	2.19
ce DM	4.57	4.63	Yugoslavia Dnr	82.00	76.50
ce Dr	115.00	110.80			
kong S	12.18	11.58			
nd Pt	1.33	1.27			
Lic	2385.00	2285.00			
2 Yn	497.00	472.00			
Francs Cld	1.89	5.13			

Rates for small denomination bank note only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other "foreign business."

MANAGEMENT

Facing up to challenge of minicomputer revolution

A business partnership conceived in a Paris taxi 10 years ago has grown so rapidly that the company is now seeking a public quotation.

Two colleagues, unknown to each other but working for the same United States computer company, were attending a conference in Paris. During their stay they shared a taxi; the conversation on that trip formed the basis of a business enterprise. They returned from Paris to their jobs, one to resume his work as a factory manager in Scotland, the other to continue medical marketing in Switzerland.

Two years later, in 1973, Mr David Johns and Mr Tom Fitzpatrick joined forces in a small office over a chemist's shop in Redhill.

Now, after eight years of struggle to finance their concern, they are joint managing directors of CPU Computers based at Woking, Surrey, designing and manufacturing micro-processors, VDU systems and peripheral computer equipment. Projected sales for this year to June are £5m; with profits estimated at £750,000 there will be a 15 per cent return on sales.

From the rented offices they continued working for their previous employers, the US Varian company (now Sperry Univac), for sales representative marketing mini-computer systems in the United Kingdom.

Other products distributed were for Wangco Inc (now Perkin-Elmer) and "floppy disk" drives for Schugart Associates, a Xerox division.

It is from this activity that Mr Johns, a mechanical engineer and Mr Fitzpatrick, an industrial chemist, who had worked for both ICI and Fisons, saved £10,000. This was to provide the entire working capital base for the transition from agents to designers and manufacturers.

Much of the drive, says Mr Johns, came from their frustration over the way they saw industry handling the launch of software in this country. According to them, the gap between Britain and its main competitors comes from crucial areas of mismanagement in British industry.

The first, remedied slightly since the early 1970s, is the lack of venture risk capital advanced by the financial institutions.

Second, the status and way in which production engineering is regarded, and how marketing strategies have proved time and time again inadequate at home and abroad.

"Our equivalent in the United States would have been given \$2m for research and development, followed by \$2m for production," he said. "It has been a sad story in Britain."

They cited their own problems in getting capital to see

CPU off the ground—in the early days they were refused loans or overdraft facilities. One bank in fact refused them a £3,500 overdraft...

But it was to be the franchise as sole distributors for Schugart's "floppy disks" which provided the "sugar-daddy" element. Manufacture had always been the long term aim, and the decisive fillip came in 1974, when they attended the National Computer Conference in California. "We came back full of mini-computers and how we could start our own systems. This was the real start to the micro-age," said Mr Fitzpatrick.

They started by leasing a 5,000 square foot factory, and with 10 staff, work on the M-One mini-computer began. Aimed at the small businessman, the computer can be used for stock control, payroll, job costing and so forth. Launched in 1977, the machine was well ahead of any competition and cost effective. Some 600 have been installed and CPU has since launched the M-Two, a larger machine with greater data storage and now the M-Three is due off the production line.

Business was growing at such a rate that in 1978 and 1979 they purchased two more factory premises—both cheap from receivers since they were still self-financing all expenditure. A new factory is being built for £500,000.



Mr David Johns (left) and Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, joint managing directors of CPU Computers, at their Woking plant.

Last year they were given a Department of Industry £250,000 grant to finance the development of M-Three. Selling for between £2,500 and £5,000, 700 orders have been placed and they see great potential for the machine in the United Kingdom and abroad.

If the company takes off, as Mr Johns and Mr Fitzpatrick believe it will, the success will have come from finding the right balance in the computer market and the lucrative distribution right for Schugart (also in Europe).

CPU, and its software subsidiary, LSI, which provides marketing, sales and services, now employs 30 people including a team of 22 solely involved in research projects.

Scrimgeour, stockbrokers to CPU, says the group has grown from strength to strength and is well placed to benefit from the micro-computer growth. "It is unusual, but the group looks like being a British success story," said one adviser.

Margareta Pagano

Coming to terms with change in South Wales

Mr Joe Lewis is a key figure in the Welsh steel industry. Like thousands of other workers, he has witnessed the ups and downs of the industry over the years. Like them, he has seen ambitious expansion programmes add great slabs of additional capacity, and more recently, he has been at the centre of the draconian contraction which the British Steel Corporation has decided is necessary if the industry is to survive in any shape at all.

He has had a vital role to play. For Mr Lewis is a member of the executive council of the industry's largest trade union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. He is also one of the employee directors on the corporation's main board which last December approved the "survival plan" drawn up by Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman.

The Welsh works, with the huge plants of Port Talbot and Llanwern the key parts in the old Welsh division which now form part of the strip products group, were likely candidates for total closure. Both are still operating. Mr Lewis and his colleagues are determined to ensure that they will survive.

Over the past 18 months there has been a quite remarkable transformation of manage-



Mr Ian MacGregor, British Steel chairman: Call for an efficient industry.

ment-union relationships the impact of which has been as great as the introduction of the basic oxygen steelmaking process.

After years of miserable performance, delays, inter-union squabbling, gross inefficiency, overmanning and appalling morale, the Welsh plants have slumped down to internationally competitive manning levels, production records are being clocked up every week and productivity has soared.

Management-union relationships have never been better, craft and process worker demarcation lines have dissolved and a commitment and determina-

tion to succeed is evident everywhere. The vigour and vitality, which is almost tangible at Llanwern and Port Talbot, seems paradoxical at a time when the steel industry is experiencing its deepest crisis since the thirties.

But British Steel cost the taxpayer more than £1,000m last year; total losses for the financial year just ended were an estimated £660m; and this year the corporation has persuaded the Government to provide another £730m.

Behind the MacGregor survival strategy lies the need to get manning levels down, drive up plant, reduce costs and drive up the yield and quality of every tonne of steel produced. Because of European-wide overcapacity—where according to Mr Brian Moffat, director of the Port Talbot works, quality is still making losses, but they are leading the efficiency drive.

Vast empty car parks around the sprawling Llanwern site provide a vivid reminder of the scale of demanning which has taken place. Under the first phase of British Steel's Welsh "survival plan", more than 11,000 jobs were scrapped at the two integrated plants out of the 20,000 which were lost in the Welsh steel industry last year. Another 1,400

workers from the two plants were made redundant under the second slim-line programme in Wales negotiated at the end of last year; this programme accounted for a total of 5,900 jobs throughout the Welsh steel industry.

Mr Peter Allen, the operations managing director for the corporation's strip products group (which also includes the large integrated Scottish works of Ravenscraig/Gartcosh) says: "If you and I had discussed the possibility of securing job reductions of 25,000-30,000 throughout the Welsh steel industry two years ago, I would not have believed it was possible."

But it has happened. And, says Mr Allen, all this has been achieved without the loss of a single day's work in protest.

The scale of the change, the size of the restructuring and the speed with which it has been carried out, on reflection, has been almost breathtaking. It has been the biggest restructuring in the industry since the 1920s, certainly in the time that it has taken," adds Mr Allen.

What has brought about this fundamental shift in attitudes to work in the Welsh steel industry? Mr Lewis has no doubt on the

single most important factor. "It was the steel strike which changed people's attitudes in the industry. Do not think anyone believed that we could be out for 14 weeks and not be required. At the end of 14 weeks we all began to see a new dawn. The feeling was that if we did not do something about this, we should be without an industry at all."

It was against the depressing backdrop of the strike and the decline in demand that management and unions in South Wales have forged a new compact which has cut the combined workforce at Port Talbot and Llanwern to little more than 10,000.

Productivity improvements have been impressive. At Llanwern the man-hours required to produce a liquid tonne of steel has been cut to 4.6 and at Port Talbot to 5.7 against nine or more before the strike. Well inside the target of 8.5 throughout the corporation by the end of this year.

Will it be enough to ensure the survival of the two integrated Welsh plants? Manning and productivity levels comparable with some of the best in Europe are one thing; a strong market, firm prices and profitable orders are another.

Peter Hill

Industry in the regions

Breasclete, Western Isles

to 70 ton catches of white fish can land there without the long expensive voyage to the established markets.

It is a sea area until now neglected by the British fleet. The price skippers receive at Breasclete may be lower but the net result, so to speak, is no worse and they are able to return more quickly to the productive work of catching more fish.

Lewis Stokkfish, the company which runs the plant, was formed jointly by the highlands board and A/S Kaut Stokkes of Alesund, Norway. The £1.7m fish drying plant exports to traditional markets in Scandinavia, Europe and East Africa.

From the start the board expected that the project would take some little time to become accepted and established and there were some big teething problems.

"It is quite logical this should happen. It is on the edge of a sea area rich in fish that is not subjected to a lot of pressure. The demands for tusk saithe white and blue fish in prime condition has revived the traditional long-line method of fishing but with a modern automated system."

A Stornoway family converted the 14-foot Danish trawler the Anni Elisabeth to the "autoline" system. They had help from the highlands board and are now supplying Breasclete. Mr Liston admits there have been substantial difficulties for plant situated so far away from the markets. Drying the fish uses enormous amounts of energy and transporting it to the customers is costly. The time taken by the process means delay in securing a return and this has led to cash-flow problems.

Nigeria is an important customer for the product which is hardly appetising to look at but contains a high concentration of protein.

"Nigeria is desperate for protein with more than 80 million mouths to feed and our production is ideal for the Third World market. It is light and easy to transport and does not require deep freezing," Mr Liston says.

Ronald Faux

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting cooperative ventures

From the Director of the Co-operative Development Agency Sir, Mr John Hands' letter (April 3) states the need for an organization to promote co-operatives but asserts that the Co-operative Development Agency is not meeting that need. This is surprising to anyone who looks at the facts.

I agree in general with Mr Hands' analysis of the functions that such an organization should discharge. With one exception, these are precisely what the agency is doing. The exception is supplying loan capital, or loan guarantees. Parliament decided that the agency should not have a financing role.

The facts are apparent for anyone with eyes to see them. Since the agency became fully operational 18 months ago, as its work has become known, it has had to deal with a steadily and strongly rising number of

cases. The total stands at over a thousand. Not all, of course, bear fruit.

Of particular interest is the increasing extent which local authorities are looking to the agency for advice and help. And this is not the whole story by a long way. The agency is developing a number of new cooperative forms: neighbourhood cooperatives, marketing cooperatives, employee participation cooperatives and co-operative and training and enterprise workshop.

It has drawn new sets of model rules to provide much needed alternatives to the model available from the Industrial Common Ownership Movement, valuable though that is. It has negotiated an important tax concession with the Government. And it can claim a large part of the credit for alerting attention to the co-operative as a valid form of organization for doing business. But it is about business. As

the agency has constantly reiterated, co-operation is no easy option. It requires no commercial skill than does a generally organized business. Given that, it provides advantage in motivation a contribution to the creation of a viable enterprise and stable employment.

As for the agency's refusal to Mr Hands' suggestion that it lacks motivation, its inactivity is not, of course, logically founded; and may regard this as a de facto agency's approach to work is practical and realistic. Only in this way a successful industrial co-operative can be built up.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS LAWRENCE, Co-operative Development Agency, 30 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ, April 3.

Pension scheme rights for pensioners

From Miss Pamela Duveen Sir, I was pleased to see in Margaret Stone's report (Business News, March 25) that the Bank of England, as well as favouring more pension fund legislation, also share some of the unease expressed in the Wilson report that existing pensioners, as against current working members, have no say in the management of their scheme.

Since my retirement in 1979 I have become increasingly aware that the value of my main source of personal income—that is my occupational pension—is entirely reliant on the goodwill of the scheme's managers and the self-interest of working members. This was brought home to me when a vote was taken of working members on a proposed uplift to pensions made possible by a massive surplus of funds, leaving existing pensioners feeling very much a disenfranchised body hoping for a lucky handout.

It was against the depressing backdrop of the strike and the decline in demand that management and unions in South Wales have forged a new compact which has cut the combined workforce at Port Talbot and Llanwern to little more than 10,000.

Productivity improvements have been impressive. At Llanwern the man-hours required to produce a liquid tonne of steel has been cut to 4.6 and at Port Talbot to 5.7 against nine or more before the strike. Well inside the target of 8.5 throughout the corporation by the end of this year.

Will it be enough to ensure the survival of the two integrated Welsh plants? Manning and productivity levels comparable with some of the best in Europe are one thing; a strong market, firm prices and profitable orders are another.

Peter Hill

Electric supply industry

From Sir Kelvin Spencer Sir, An article in your March 31 issue "Steel industry wants new deal on energy" quotes Mr Ian Blakey (director, British Independent Steel Producers Association) as saying "there must be grounds for disquiet about the relative efficiency of the United Kingdom electricity industry."

There are indeed. Some of them have been noted in the recent report of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy (11-1). One of the 91 conclusions and recommendations reads: "Enormous past nuclear investments have had exceptionally low productivity; great resources have been used with little direct return and serious net loss."

Sir Arthur Hawkins, giving evidence to the Select Committee on Science and Technology (December 18, 1973) stated that the AGR programme was "a catastrophe we must not repeat." Yet two more of them are now being built. In noting this, the recent report (11-1) states: "What the various problems with the AGR programme so far have in common is the additional and wholly avoidable financial burden they have imposed directly on the electricity consumer and indirectly on the tax payer."

Is it not time some new blood was injected into the electricity supply industry? Yours, etc. KELVIN SPENCER, Wootton, Branscombe, Seaton, Devon EX12 3DN, March 31.

Head Office: 1 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong Telephone: 5-2677-111 Telex: 73201

London Main Office: Falcon House Curzon Street W1Y 8AA Telephone: 01-493 8331 Telex: 27544

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It can be argued that where working members are being asked to pay an increase in contributions, which will secure them better terms for the calculation of a pension, they should have a say. Is it so clear that they should be the only ones to vote on the distribution of a surplus?

With increasing rewards from employment there are increasing expectations from retirement and, though pension terms are more and more a subject for negotiation between employer and trades union, once a pensioner, and outside both union and work place, you are well and truly on your own.

There is real cause for concern that pensioners have no voice in the management of their occupational pension scheme, but who is there to press their case?

Yours faithfully, PAMELA DUVEEN, 3 Verculam Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5LQ.

Even the nineteenth century engineering names which so familiar now are known by the chance Samuel Smiles wrote so about them. There are engineers of the time and biographers, but until the more of an awareness in the circles of the technical history is worth research they will, largely, remain in unjust view.

Mechanical engineering has been badly served by this, probably because of the study with specialized engineering knowledge are needed to evaluate changing engine processes properly. Civil engineering, in contrast, attracted attention, possibly because so many Victorian railway engineers and civil engineers were standing.

More published results, specially written TV programmes about these neglected men, will undoubtedly do much to make better known the names of our modern engineers. Yours sincerely, A. P. WOOLRICH, Canal Side, Hunsbury, Bridgewater, Somerset TA7 1 March 26.

Progress has been steady rather than spectacular with comparatively few new projects being started. Governments are adopting a more cautious approach and are taking longer to evaluate the possible benefits of large investments. Where joint ventures are involved, foreign partners are also looking more closely for assurance of adequate returns. One of the continuing problems is the shortage of skilled manpower.

Though the economic front in the Middle East has been peaceful, the oil world has been troubled. Throughout the year Saudi Arabia struggled to restore a national price structure for crude oil, but unfortunately without success, and the Iraq-Iran war altered all calculations.

I said last year that life had not been easy for Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States in 1979, nor was it likely to become easier in 1980. My fears have been unhappily borne out. Those countries need a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the unity of the Arab countries, and good relations with Iran. On all these fronts 1980 has brought them major external pressures have increased and internal stresses have not diminished.

Once again Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States have faced with courage and skill the difficulties which others have raised up for them. They have shown resilience which their detractors did not expect, and they deserve more understanding than the outside world accords them.

The contribution of the staff to the progress of the Bank deserves the highest commendation and merits my personal thanks and that of the Board.

Staff

Fish plant begins to prove its worth

Mr Iain Sproat, the Conservative MP for South Aberdeen and co-owner of quangos, has picked on the fish processing plant at Breasclete in the Western Isles to show the "horrible inactivity" of a quango to invest other people's money. The quango in mind is the Highlands and Islands Development Board which has invested £650,000 of public money in Breasclete on the Isle of Lewis. Mr Sproat was scathing about the plant's performance, citing 1979 when losses outstripped turnover.

The attack may yet prove to be rash and leave Mr Sproat with fish on his chin. The figures complained about were for the first year of operation when a heavy loss had been anticipated. In that year the plant was completely untried and not part of the fishery pattern for the area.

Last year turnover increased four-fold and this year it is expected to double again with a substantial fall in the loss. The market base is broadening encouragingly and recently boats from Hull and Peterhead



The converted Danish trawler, Anni Elisabeth, unloading her catch at the Breasclete fish processing plant.

have begun unloading catches at the Breasclete pier in East Loch Roag, using the loch as a centre for operations. "Eight local boats land here now as well so we are slowly becoming an important alternative for vessels fishing in this locality," says Mr Munro Liston, general manager of the plant.

The attraction of Breasclete is its closeness to the Atlantic fishing grounds. Boats with 60

Industry in the regions

Breasclete, Western Isles

to 70 ton catches of white fish can land there without the long expensive voyage to the established markets.

It is a sea area until now neglected by the British fleet. The price skippers receive at Breasclete may be lower but the net result, so to speak, is no worse and they are able to return more quickly to the productive work of catching more fish.

Lewis Stokkfish, the company which runs the plant, was formed jointly by the highlands board and A/S Kaut Stokkes of Alesund, Norway. The £1.7m fish drying plant exports to traditional markets in Scandinavia, Europe and East Africa.

From the start the board expected that the project would take some little time to become accepted and established and there were some big teething problems.

"It is quite logical this should happen. It is on the edge of a sea area rich in fish that is not subjected to a lot of pressure. The demands for tusk saithe white and blue fish in prime condition has revived the traditional long-line method of fishing but with a modern automated system."

A Stornoway family converted the 14-foot Danish trawler the Anni Elisabeth to the "autoline" system. They had help from the highlands board and are now supplying Breasclete. Mr Liston admits there have been substantial difficulties for plant situated so far away from the markets. Drying the fish uses enormous amounts of energy and transporting it to the customers is costly. The time taken by the process means delay in securing a return and this has led to cash-flow problems.

Nigeria is an important customer for the product which is hardly appetising to look at but contains a high concentration of protein.

"Nigeria is desperate for protein with more than 80 million mouths to feed and our production is ideal for the Third World market. It is light and easy to transport and does not require deep freezing," Mr Liston says.

Ronald Faux

A successful year: the level of business remains satisfactory

Extracts from a statement by the Chairman, MGR Sandberg, O.B.E.

Year's Results and Capital Structure The British Bank of the Middle East had a successful year with the Bank's consolidated after-tax published profit rising from £5,637,649 in 1979 to £9,252,825.

The level of business in our main areas of operations remained satisfactory, with Bahrain achieving a particularly pleasing result, while our Associate, The Saudi British Bank, had a highly successful year.

During the year our capital was increased from £22,500,000 to £52,500,000 by the issue of a further 30,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. In addition, our parent company, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, provided a subordinated loan of US\$90,000,000.

The dividend paid to the parent company was £5,250,000 compared to £3,500,000 in 1979.

The consolidated capital and reserve accounts now total £84,348,627 compared to £50,536,071 as at 31 December 1979, an increase of 67 per cent.

Balance Sheet In line with plans to rationalise the operations of The Hongkong Bank Group within the United Kingdom it was decided that with effect from 1 January 1981 the operations of our Main London Office at 99 Bishopsgate would be transferred to our parent company, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. During the months prior to the changeover date, funds normally placed by us directly in the market were channelled through our parent company. Including the amount due from our parent the overall liquidity remained at a high level.

Although trading conditions remained buoyant advances to customers fell slightly in sterling terms from £498,221,182 to £491,431,203.

During the year the capital of The Saudi British Bank was increased from Saudi Riyals 100 million to Saudi Riyals 300 million. Our share of the increased capitalisation accounts for the increase in the cost of investment in the associated company from £5,336,891 to £15,085,232.



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Current deposit and other accounts showed a rise from £1,321,434,627 to £1,556,063,951, an increase of 18 per cent.

In accordance with the policy adopted by The Hongkong Bank Group, confirmed credits, guarantees and endorsements have been excluded from the Balance Sheet as these items are now shown by way of note as contingent liabilities.

Middle Eastern Scene Progress has been steady rather than spectacular with comparatively few new projects being started. Governments are adopting a more cautious approach and are taking longer to evaluate the possible benefits of large investments. Where joint ventures are involved, foreign partners are also looking more closely for assurance of adequate returns. One of the continuing problems is the shortage of skilled manpower.

Though the economic front in the Middle East has been peaceful, the oil world has been troubled. Throughout the year Saudi Arabia struggled to restore a national price structure for crude oil, but unfortunately without success, and the Iraq-Iran war altered all calculations.

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The contribution of the staff to the progress of the Bank deserves the highest commendation and merits my personal thanks and that of the Board.

Staff

The British Bank of the Middle East

A Member of The Hongkong Bank Group

ARTOC BANK AND TRUST LIMITED

announce that

its paid in capital has increased from US\$10 million to US\$20 million

Head Office Charlotte House Charlotte Street P.O. Box N8319 Nassau, Bahamas
Tel: (809) 32-51183 Telex: 20270 ARTOCBANK

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7 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1EE, England
Telephone: (01) 930-9553 Telex: 916347

9 rue de la Paix, Paris 2^e, France
Telephone: 261-64-38 Telex: 214626

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Why the stock market took the bait

It is not unusual for the equity market to take off as unemployment moves towards a cyclical peak. Whether that peak will come this year or some time next year is anybody's guess. But for the moment the market believes it can see economic recovery somewhere and the pack has set in full cry.

Regardless, perhaps, of whether economic activity does start to pick up over the coming months or merely stops declining, there are certainly a number of plus points that can be made for equities.

The corporate sector is a great deal healthier than it was a couple of years ago; private sector pay settlements continue to decelerate; there is a strong feeling that a government will not allow sterling to depreciate strongly again, if that is the way market forces appear to be shaping up; and there looks to be a good prospect of a rather point or two off M.L.R. by early summer.

Moreover, as far as investors are concerned, it would seem that the government's ill-named capital markets should be held in check, leaving a greater proportion of long-term investment funds available for corporate sector investment.

Indeed, one almost feels that some pension fund managers may be piling into equities now having taken the 2 per cent return offered by the government on its first index-linked issue as something of an insult to their investment skills.

While the equity market is going strong, it is well to notice, however, that there are signs of enthusiasm at present in the gilt-edged market. In part, that can be attributed to the current bout of indigestion in the market suffering from the fairly heavy riding of the past couple of months.

But it is not the only explanation. Once investors put on their gilt-edged hats they tend to talk in rather more cautious tones than they would have been expected, but there is still a strong feeling after the experience of the past that the government will deliver this time.

Additionally, there is concern that private credit demand has not really decelerated enough for comfort at this stage of the cycle. In other words, the more so if the public sector is not effectively controlled, then interest rates may not be falling as far as hoped for, and that could complicate matters further. And just in case of projections as to how the yield curve will develop over the rest of the year, the real oil price and the subsequent behaviour of sterling.

Through all these uncertainties, the case for staying with equities is quite simply that a company will soon start to recover of its own accord, or, failing that, the Government will be forced to start progressive reflation in the autumn onwards. A sustained bull market in equities requires the former rather than the latter.

Lorho's debts

Borrowing overseas

Lorho will be hitting the foreign currency borrowing trail again, with a Swiss £80m 10-year convertible issue managed by Banque Keyser Ullmann Suisse expected in the Swiss capital market sometime in next month.

Although this will be Lorho's first foray into the convertible market, it has become a regular currency borrower since it is an understanding to the Monopoles mission during the Suits investigation reschedule more of its heavy short-term commitments onto a longer-term basis to prove its overall funding position.

Its previous currency issues include two 12½ per cent franc ones, two Deutschmarks totalling £100m for seven and eight years and a French franc 270m credit over 10 years.

At the end of 1978 Lorho's gross debt of £74m of which only £26m was long term and the latest figure shows overall £290m of which £130m is now long term, although the overall funding position has improved by the sharp rise in bank loans at interim.

But Lorho's systematic foreign currency borrowing contrasts with the majority of British international groups who, by large, have shied away from currency borrowing, apart from the occasional Euro issue to fund an overseas acquisition, owing the currency scars many like Lorho are nursing after sterling's steady revaluation during the 1970s.

Is this right? Lorho argues that because of the proportion of its assets and dividend income is South African-based, whose cur-

rency tends to follow the European ones, currency-matching is not quite so out of kilter.

Even on straight currency considerations, however, the strength of sterling since the ending of exchange controls and North Sea oil began flowing—coupled with the still relatively low interest rates available in Europe—has made foreign currency borrowing very attractive.

Depending on how much faith you have in sterling in the 1980s, foreign currency borrowing could become more popular unless our own corporate bond market swings back into action. How many corporate treasurers are likely to have enough faith to overcome their mismatching nightmares?

Garage companies

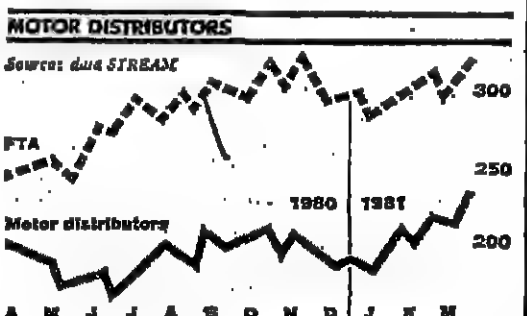
Only for the bold

Garage companies offer excitement. The biggest, strongest and probably the best, Kennings, had its best year in 1978-79 when pre-tax profits were £8.4m or 3.5 per cent of sales. In 1979-80 they fell to £3.1m, equal to 1.2 per cent of sales. By garage standards this was excellent. The largest BL dealer, Henlys, saw 1979 profits of £4.3m give way to 1980 losses of £387,000 and the smaller BL dealers fared far worse. Dividends were slashed or passed, which must be remembered when looking at ostensibly high yields.

Another drawback is that of the 30-odd quoted garage companies, only Kennings, Henlys and possibly BSG International engage institutional interest. And even the leaders are small fry. Henlys is capitalized at little more than £13m and a medium sized concern such as Caffyns at less than £4.5m. So investors in motor distributors must be quick to sell when the time comes.

Nearly all the stocks in the sector are already at, or nudging, this year's highs, so they are already looking well beyond a lacklustre year for sales to (one hopes) a boom in 1982. Last year car registrations were 1.51m, nearly 12 per cent down on the year before, making it the worst in motor distributors' memory.

The sales slump caught them with huge stocks carried at high interest rates. Unloading these stocks led to a collapse in prices and severe stock write downs. Before the recent Budget, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders predicted a further 6 per cent fall in sales to 1.42m units this year. Now, industry estimates point to only 1.35m or so. Some observers disagree, arguing that petrol in real terms is no dearer now than a few years ago, and



that a fall in interest rates on deposits will release money for spending on cars.

Even so, the outlook is still not bright. If, as some say, there are still 450,000 or so cars in stock, discounting will continue, wrecking margins and implying more write downs.

There is another reason for caution. Last year Ford was the market leader while BL had its worst year ever, with only 18 per cent of the market. This year the roles could be reversed after the acclaim which greeted the Metro in October. BL dealers could show sharper profit recoveries this year than Ford distributors, but cautious investors should stick to Ford dealers. The Dagenham group supervises its distributors like Marks & Spencer does its suppliers.

However, garage companies have two big things going for them. First, interest charges last year were frequently 100 per cent to 50 per cent of any pre-tax profits. These charges will drop steeply this year, particularly at Appleyards' and Henlys where surplus assets have been sold. Second, most distributors have plenty of property which is frequently suitable for alternative uses. Appleyards, for example, had a 1980 pre-tax loss of £1.88m. But interest charges were £1.86m. Out went surplus property, and borrowings fell sharply, but only towards the end of 1980. This indicates the extent of the interest saving in 1981.

The wealth of property also points to the sector's other attraction—the vulnerability of many distributors to take-over bids.

President Giscard offers himself for reelection later this month. David Blake reports

French economic policy under test



Behind the rhetoric of being the most monetarist Government in Europe, with the possible exception of our own, the French administration has been pursuing a very careful policy aimed at balancing the conflicting demands of growth and price stability

M Raymond Barre (left), the French Prime Minister, the "first economist in France", as President Giscard calls him.

to compare with the million experienced over the past year in Britain.

This is all very different from the scheme of things set out in the Barre plan, France's equivalent of our medium-term financial strategy which was launched just over four years ago.

The aims and the rhetoric of that plan were very similar to those adopted by the Government in Britain. It hoped to squeeze inflation out of the system by imposing control on the money supply. The problem was the plan had faced and the way the French Government has adapted to them lie at the heart of the French economic management.

The first, and most important, point to note is that the French Government has not really meant what it said about giving priority to monetary targets. The targets are set for the year ahead to be consistent with the way the economy is thought likely to move. The Government forecasts the inflation rate and the desired monetary growth rate, and then sets the targets to give it an estimate of the likely change in money out-

put; it then sets its target for the money supply a point or two below this level.

That means the targets cannot be set at a level inconsistent with what is happening in the real economy. But French pragmatism does not stop there. The success rate in actually holding down growth in money supply to the target figure is poor. In 1979, for example, a 10 per cent monetary target resulted in 14.3 per cent growth.

That sort of slippage seems not to worry the French too greatly. Nor does the strain of trying to meet their monetary targets impose itself in the form of higher interest rates, which have bedevilled the Government's policies in the United Kingdom.

France has always been a dirigiste country and when the French want to control money they impose controls on credit. Bank lending in France is restricted by the system of *encadrement* a sort of super-control which limits how much banks can let their customers have. To ease the squeeze, some kinds of lending for investment and housebuilding are just left

free to grow outside the *encadrement* system. That keeps at least some sectors of the economy buoyant, though it has meant quite a tough grip being maintained on consumer lending.

Lying behind all of these measures is the belief that it is not worthwhile destroying the engine of economic growth just to meet monetary targets in any given year. But in spite of this level-headed approach, the government has found itself trapped in a position where just to stop inflation rising, let alone get it falling, it has had to accept increasing unemployment each year.

It is this which seems likely to be the main weakness in the Government's position in the election.

Unemployment is now 1.6 million and rising. Each year the workforce grows by about 250,000, so that many extra jobs have to be created just to stand still.

But the job prospects in the country's older industries, such as steel and textiles are grim. They are going through a painful period of contraction as the country adjusts to the new

industrial structure which it will need to compete in the 1990s. Forecasts for the mid-1980s vary but few question that unemployment could go above 2½ million by the middle of this decade.

The rise in unemployment which has already occurred and the prospect of worse to come has embarrassed the Government. Matters have been made worse by the fact that during the past few months France has been suffering a milder version of the downturn which has afflicted the rest of Europe.

This has focused attention on the long-term problems which the Government faces and the doubts about whether it can prevent the problem of joblessness getting out of hand. Although the rise in unemployment is slow, the Government's record is already worse than that of Germany.

Opponents of the Government are demanding that the economy should be expanded faster, either through public spending or tax cuts. The President has come up with his own scheme which he says will create a million jobs but which will also require more jobs already existing. Migrant workers would be sent home and early retirement encouraged.

At the same time the Government is stepping up its efforts to move France into the forefront of the growth industries of the second half of this decade. Public spending is being used aggressively to boost industries such as telematics, the word the French have invented to describe the cross-breeding of computers and telecommunications.

Huge investment in nuclear power is pressing ahead to cut down the country's dependence on imported oil, thus making the economy less vulnerable in future to the actions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

By British standards, France has been a success over the past five years. Its economy has kept on a steady upward path. But by the standards the French had come to accept, with 5 per cent growth and negligible unemployment, the problems look ominous.

We shall see later this month whether it is the fact that they have done better than most other countries or worse than they would like which weighs heaviest in French minds.

Oliver Stanley

Have small businesses been let down again?

According to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the plan in his study Finance Bill pudding is the business start-up scheme: "A striking new incentive to channel investment into small business".

This is the third successive Finance Bill which has included thick slabs of new law designed to encourage investment and risk-taking, and the scheme certainly breaks new ground. Alas on reading clauses 90 to 63 all the welcoming, congratulatory noises die in the throat.

The concept is simple: Income tax relief for individuals who take an equity stake in new companies: an anglicized *loi monerie* mark two. In last year's mark one—the venture capital scheme—investors were to be helplessly lost to secure relief.

Not so in mark two but relief is cancelled so far as an investor gets back value within five years of his investment. Value includes repayment of invested capital, cash benefits or facilities other than ordinary interest or dividends. All that seems fair enough.

It is the laborious rule about the qualifying status of the company and the investor which begin to generate doubts and reservations. The trade must be a new venture, not a mere expansion of an existing business, and have been going for more than three years before the investor puts in his money. It must not consist of any substantial extent of dealing in goods, commodities or land, which seems to exclude all retailing whole-

selling and some manufacturers. Banking, insurance and finance companies fail to qualify and there are supplementary rules defining summary. The investors' stake must amount to less than 30 per cent of combined equity and loan capital or voting power. He must not be an employee, paid director, or relative of employees or directors nor the partner or trustee. The company must not be part of a group, nor a 51 per cent subsidiary.

The investor cannot put in less than £1,000 nor more than £10,000 and above all there must be prospects of profit. Moreover, there must be no tax avoidance intention.

So multifarious are the rules that they would exclude any combination of businesses and investors not specifically created to comply. The Revenue is determined to avoid creating statutory tax avoidance vehicles like those widely marketed in recent years.

Tax shelters, as they are known in the United States, have included films, pop music, records and containers. They are based on the proposition that risk of net loss can be reduced or eliminated by built-in tax relief. The Revenue has adopted a hostile posture and is fighting to deny relief similar to that which the business start-up scheme offers. But some tax shelters are commercially viable.

What is so disappointing is that the start-up scheme has

been composed with total disregard for ordinary principles of investment and corporate finance. By implication it requires that company managers shall not possess the experience or track record needed to justify any small investor backing them. These criteria would need to be evidence in a prospectus. If they were, relief would be forfeit.

Backing outsiders is for mugs. Institutional investors expect a profit record in excess of £100,000 a year as a minimum. Small minority private investors, so-called *Angels*, are entitled to expect better past performance before plunking savings into the hot hands of controlling directors.

It will be a rare manufacturing company which achieves acceptable investment standards within three years, the maximum time allowed. Any that have achieved an appropriate success record are unlikely to require share subscriptions in units of £10,000 which would be trivial compared with the total amount of capital employed.

Any who came forward would have collateral reasons, that is they would be employees, brothers or owners of associated concerns and all these are statutorily excluded. It follows that the vision of small investors backing untried manufacturers in unproven enterprises exists in the *Encadrement* House and not in real life.

Financiers need to be rich

and resource. To encourage a breed of poor financiers to go into business on terms weighted against them seems irresponsible. However, the scheme is expected to elicit only a negligible response. It is calculated that only £50m in tax is likely to be lost, although the estimate is admittedly "highly uncertain". Also the rules of this new game can be loosened up during the committee stage of the Finance Bill and have been drawn tightly enough to permit that to occur.

It is depressing that the Government is taking so cynical a view of tax incentives. "Helping small firms" has become a way of pretending to reduce tax without actually doing so. On the other hand, tax incentives were on offer: 100 per cent allowances and grants to persuade industry to reequip with modern plant.

It is doubtful whether even such incentives could ever lead to national economic prosperity, but if these efforts failed what hope for this puny specimen?

One of the world's most exclusive hotels.

Geneva without the Hotel des Bergues is almost unthinkable; this old and beautiful house is part of the city itself, and for some 150 years has welcomed crowned heads, diplomats and international travellers. Its atmosphere is quiet, distinguished and discreet. Set on the right bank of the Rhône, with a breathtaking view of the Alps of Savoy, the Hotel des Bergues is but a few steps away from the banking and business quarters.

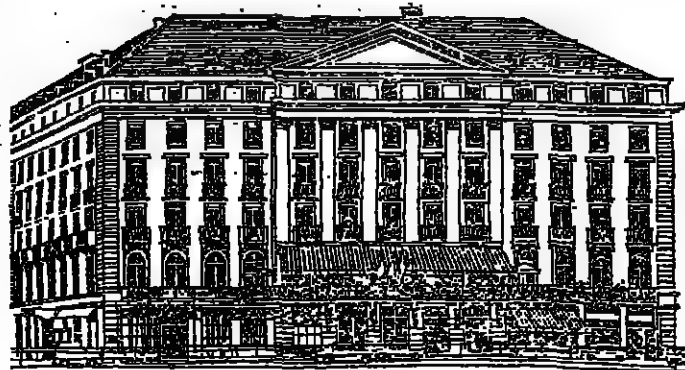
For entertaining and special occasions the Amphitryon Restaurant is as famed for its pleasant atmosphere as its superb menu; the Pavilion provides less formal dining, and tea is also served here.

There are nine rooms available for meetings of all kinds; the Grand Salon will accommodate up to 450 people for banquets and dancing. The 150 guest rooms are spacious and very comfortable.

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Business Diary profile: Chompin' at the Savoy

The law is the true embodiment of everything that's gone wrong in the world, is the snatch of Tolstoy's may be hummed by one side the other when later this year, possibly on Thursday, the Savoy Hotel Group for Sir Charles Forte and his wife emerge from court before a judge.

To judge, Sir Charles and team hope, will grant THF privilege and the plea that we treasure beyond sure of calling over Sir Charles' head, the group's "A" and "B" shareholders to put to the vote a £58m bid.

So determined management are at odds, each convinced that it is the fitter to run and improve the hotel, established when the group was itself established, to a degree disputed by

though not the first time a group has assailed the group. Present bid—by one British-owned company for her—arouses more concern when, five years ago, the group was bought by Arab.

92, the Savoy is 40 years older than Harrods and 104

years younger than The Times.

And like Harrods and The Times, with their present and recent ownership struggles, the degree to which the image is commensurate with reality is being put to the test in a shrinking market by comped-

itors perhaps less august but at least as determined.

What, then, is the Savoy, conceived by Richard D'Oyly Carte to cash in on Gilbert and Sullivan, managed by Charles Ritz and victimised by Essoffier, that it should now invoke

not comic opera but Wagner, with Savoy chairman Sir Hugh casting himself as Siegfried to Sir Charles's Albrecht (or is it Hagen?)

Eight years to go to its centenary, the Savoy is neither the oldest of London's best-known hotels (Brown's is 48 years older) nor the biggest (it has 201 rooms, less than half that of the TRF flagship, the Grosvenor House).

It is not even the most expensive, for the best suites can be had for just under £250 a night, while a night in the Oliver Messel suite at the Dorchester.

To me, before I ever went there, the Savoy meant music, American music, meant records, or radio broadcasts from the River Room, Carroll Gibbons at his white piano playing *On the Air* with his Savoy Orpheans.

My first memory of the hotel was unpleasant, though since modified by the unfailing courtesy and helpfulness of the staff.

I went there to report the annual meeting of the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers' Association, a task more honourable than enthralling, and at the close I sought to check a point with the then chairman, Sir Hugh Womerton.

"Oh, I don't see that I need answer that, do you?" he said airily and turned away.

However, times change: Sir Hugh now seeks the cooperation of the press in his struggle to have the shareholders distinguish favourably between the Savoy and that of the autocrat of Grosvenor House.

And I find myself asking even bigger questions, such as "What is the Savoy?"

The Savoy? It's rather like a flying boat: very attractive but not much use nowadays.

This was the instant reply from the manager of a THF hotel in the West End, newly recruited from another group.

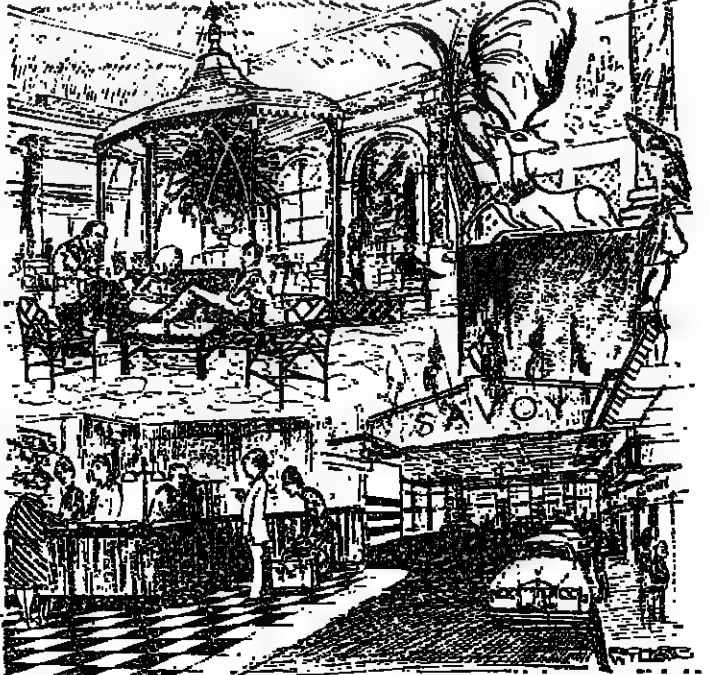
The reaction of an American guest at the Savoy was also that of qualified friendliness.

The Savoy, she said, was old school. It was about service and trying to do it better. Americans liked to have of a more expansive England. Still more Americans liked to come to see what other, yet richer and more celebratory, Americans dine or stay there (the composer Stephen Sondheim was due there at the weekend, John Huston, and Lily Tomlin have just been).

Summing up, she said of the hotel: "I think it could use a little sprucing up, a little 'living'. Of the present management, she said: "I think they are so anxious to preserve it they might mummify it."

Having had pro and con I struck the middle ground when at a reception I met Dries de Vaal, a partner in hotel con-

solidated and turned away.



The Savoy: A hotel "wrestling on its laurels".

FINANCIAL NEWS

Scottish Television recovers from strike

Scottish Television made a complete recovery last year from the effects of 1979's eleven-week ITV strike, with profits, before tax, bouncing back from £1.72m to £2.03m, fractionally better than the £2.02m made in 1978. Turnover jumped 50 per cent to £27.6m, at the December 31, 1980, year-end.

Dividends have also risen sharply after marking time for two years. Payments for 1980 total 12.1p gross—23.5 per cent higher than the previous year. Sir Campbell Fraser, STV's chairman, stated: "The year

ended on a high note with the award of a new contract for the next eight years" in the Independent Broadcasting Authority's round of awards. However, STV's recovery in 1980 from the 1979 ITV strike was slowed down by the rising cost of making programmes and staffing the network; and since the start of this year, advertising growth has been slowing down.

Sir Ian warned shareholders that "considerable pressure" will be exerted on STV's profits this and next year in the face of these factors.

St Joe Minerals agrees merger with Fluor

St. Joe Minerals, the American mining company for which Seagram, the Canadian drinks group, has bid \$2,000m, has agreed to merge with Fluor, the Californian construction giant. Fluor has offered \$60 a share for St. Joe—\$15 a share more than the bid by Seagram. Fluor is also offering 1.2 of its own shares for each of the St. Joe shares outstanding after the cash tender offer for 45 per cent of St. Joe's equity.

The offer values St. Joe at about \$1,000m, more than Seagram's original bid. Unlike the

first offer it is not contingent on overturning some states' takeover laws. Attempts by St. Joe to have the Seagram bid blocked in the courts failed.

The merger is one of the three major bids for mining companies running concurrently in America. Kennecott, the country's biggest copper producer, has agreed to a \$1,800m bid by Standard Oil of Ohio. Amstar, a leading natural resources company, is fighting the \$4,000m bid by Standard Oil of California.

Leasco option purchase

Leasco Corporation announced in New York that it will exercise today an option agreement with Warner Communications to buy 270,500 shares of common stock of Reliance Group at a price of \$76.50 per share.

As a result of this transaction, Leasco will own 1.6m shares of Reliance Group com-

mon stock, or in excess of 25 per cent of Reliance Group's outstanding common stock.

On September 23rd, 1980, Leasco paid \$2.7m (about £1.2m) for the option to purchase the Reliance Group common stock from Warner during the period between March 16, 1981, until April 7, 1981.

Crown extends offer for Denbyware

By Our Financial Staff

Crown House has extended its bid for Denbyware, the pottery group, until April 23, the day before last when it can improve its £3.4m offer.

It has only received 0.05 per cent acceptance by the first closing date but said that Denbyware's lack of a profits forecast in its defence document led to the conclusion that the tableware side would continue to make significant losses and a further dividend cut may be likely.

Crown House also pointed that the Denbyware chairman, Mr George Robinson, had been unable to forecast that the tableware side would be profitable in 1982.

Denbyware's board, whose friends and associates hold more than 40 per cent of shares, has described the 80p-a-share offer as "impudent".

Sharna Ware slumps to £393,000

Plastics products manufacturer and cash and carry merchant Sharna Ware saw its pre-tax profits fall from £1.07m to £393,000 for the year to December 31, but its dividend is 4.2 per cent up at 4.96p gross, after a £614,000 tax credit, reflecting the higher interim payment but a maintained final.

All divisions were profitable but margins on the manufacturing side came under pressure. Group sales rose 5 per cent to £15.9m.

£186m aerospace sales

Britain's aerospace industry exported a record £186m of goods in January, the Society of British Aerospace Companies said. This was £50m up on January, 1980.

Market seeks pointer to MLR cut

Last week's hectic market trading was partly inspired by confidence that lower interest rates would come. So the market will be looking closely at the state of the money supply and the PSBR figures released this week for clues of such cuts have a firm base.

The results are expected to show evidence that the money supply and the Government's borrowing requirements are under control.

Other economic pointers out today are the wholesale price index for March from the Department of Industry, hire purchase and other instalment credit business for February and retail sales from the Department of Trade.

Also, due tomorrow are the London clearing bank's monthly statement and provisional figures for vehicle production for March. On Thursday the Treasury gives the Government's PSBR transactions. The Department of Industry releases finished steel consumption and stock changes for the fourth quarter, and the building societies give monthly figures for March on Friday.

Companies reporting will show mixed news. There should be few surprises from BICC on Wednesday since pre-tax profit estimates accompanied the group's recent acquisition of the United States Electronic Corporation. BICC is expected to show pre-tax profits up some 13 per cent to £7.6m. The dividend is expected to be lifted about 10 per cent.

A breakdown of profits has not been released but analysts are pointing to recovery in the industrial division, with profits up to £6.6m against £3.7m last time. Cables UK, is expected to show depressed volume but small growth from £17m to £18m and international trading a slight increase to about £37.5m, which disguises losses from copper stocks.

The group is expected to benefit in 1981—profits esti-

This week

rates are £84m—since BICC started rationalizations three to five years ago and can therefore weather the recession better than others.

Bowater reports on Thursday and pre-tax profit forecast range between the £70m and £80m mark. Analysts have revised earlier estimates, and the middle range looks at profits of £78m with a maintained dividend. Although Bowater



Lord Erroll of Hale, chairman of Bowater.

recently announced it had withdrawn from cotton trading, this side of the business will still show a £6m loss for the last year.

Losses too of about £8m are anticipated for the United Kingdom newspaper concerns. At the half-way stage profits were up five per cent to £44.7m but the group warned that UK trading continued under pressure, with no signs of recovery. But the North American trading operations, which in the first half year continued at capacity, are again expected to reach a record level.

The better than expected results from the Freeman's (London, SW9) mail order

group last week have tended to push analysts' forecasts for Grattan Warehouse and Empire Stores upwards. Although national forecasts suggest that volume in mail order businesses were down by 2 per cent in the second half of 1980 compared with 1979 some would say this is too drastic.

Empire Stores, after a 34 per cent profits drop at the interim stage, £2.3m are expected to make about £5.5m to £6m in the full year against £9.1m in 1979. Some have pointed to a 30 per cent decline in volume in the second half at Empire



Sir Raymond Pennock, chairman of BICC.

but the drop is not expected to be so great. But results from Grattan Warehouse are expected to paint a very different picture. After profits of £2m at the interim stage analysts expect losses in the second half and perhaps losses in the full year. In 1979 profits were £4.45m.

Estimates for Taylor Woodrow's results vary between static profits of £24.6m to anything up to a 10 per cent profit increase. At the interim stage the construction group revealed that trading was tough on the international front but that home order books were over-riding with orders some 60 per cent higher than in the

previous year. But working on tight profit margins the group turned in first-half profits only 7 per cent higher at £8.2m.

TODAY: Interims: Bryant Higgs, Greencoat Props, Hylton Distillers. Finals: Alva Invest, Blanyre Tea, Dreamland Electrical Appliances, M. Mole and So Red Executive.

TOMORROW: Interims: CLRP Invest, MD (Mangula), Scottish Metropolitan Property, Finals: Aquascutum and Asda Cos, Ash and Lacy (amended), Bestwood Co, John Finlay, Highcroft Invest, KCA Intl, Leading Props, Southampton Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Steam Packets, Standard Chartered Bank.

WEDNESDAY: Interims: Dowding and Mills, North Atlantic Sea, Peter Stores, Photo-Me Inc, Sterling Credit (amended), Walker and Homer. Finals: Aurora Higgs, Bifurcated Engineering, BICC, Christies Intl, Dorada Higgs, Empire Stores (Bradford), Gill and Duffus Grp, Glynned, Grattan Warehouse, Greenbank Industrial, Higgs and Hill, S. Jerome and Sons, Lee Refrigeration, London Brick, New London Props, Portals, Royal Worcester, Senior Engineering, A. G. Stanley, H. Sykes, Yorkshire Chemicals.

THURSDAY: Interims: Dhani Higgs, Finals: Asda Book Publishers, Automotive Products, Blackwood Hodge, Bowthorpe Higgs, Bowater Corp, Clarke, Nickolls and Coombe, Feb Intl, General and Commercial Invest, General Investors and Trustees, Green's Economiser, Lead Inds, F. J. C. Lilley, Midland Inds, Morgan Crucible, Ruberoid, Stevens, Wrightson, Taylor Woodrow, Tioxide Grp, Ward White Grp, Watts, Blake, Bearne, George Wills and Sons.

FRIDAY: Interims: None announced. Finals: Brown Boveri Kent, Fothergill Harvey, Lyle Shipping, F. Miller (Textiles), Rock Darham. Margaret Pagano

Ramar Textiles improves

County Durham dressmaker Ramar Textiles turned in £250,000 interim profit, £200,000 loss in the previous weeks to November 30, but says it is now operating profitably.

Stocks have been cut by borrowing costs were high the first part, while margin fell. Sales were £5.5m, against £7.1m, over a twenty-seven period the year before, board now hopes to see a year profit. The group is not paying interim dividends.

George Spencer dies to £1,000 pretax

Nottingham knitwear George Spencer's profits from £32,000 to a little over £1,000 in the year to December 31.

There is no final dividend though a 1.14p gross interim payment was made earlier, slipped 1.2 per cent to 13.3p. Interest charges rose 7.44 per cent to £202. There was a small tax credit of £86,000. The pre-tax profit is struck after bad debts and a bad debt water audit charge.

William Jacks omits final dividend

Car distributor Wil Jacks' turnover rose 4.4 per cent to £14.5m in the year to December 31 but, its pre-tax profit fell from £41,100 to £22,100 and there is no dividend.

An interim payment of gross was paid earlier in year. There is an extraordinary debit of £160,000, leaving group with a net loss of £141 after overseas taxes and small United Kingdom credit. Current cost losses a tax work out at £430,000.

Civil engineering slows Stanley Miller

Heavy losses at its Dorin subsidiary on a civil engineering contract, as well as losses in its private housebuilding and the overseas associate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne but Stanley Miller Holdings' pre-tax profits of only £60 for the year to December against £263,000.

Dividends have been maintained at 2p gross after £467,000 tax credit. Group sales rose to £16.9m from £1. The Saudi associate cost lost £27,000 but its performance is expected to improve.

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Annual Report Year Ended 31st January 1981

	1981	1980
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.48p	3.36p
Total Dividends per Ordinary Share	3.25p	3.20p
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	101.2p	86.9p

Geographical Distribution of Portfolio



Highlights

- Excluding non-recurring receipts, earnings rose by 17.6%.
- Gross dividends paid have increased by 100.9% over five years—in same period Retail Price Index up 87.5%.
- Advantage taken of strength of sterling to switch funds overseas.
- Net Asset Value per share up 16.5%. All Share Index up 14.8%.
- Policy and Prospects
- U.K. industry currently depressed but on any upturn substantial opportunities for improved productivity.
- In U.S.A. practical difficulties face new Administration but growth will persist in certain industrial and geographic areas.
- Japan only major economy where real growth foreseen.
- Aim to have 50% of portfolio invested overseas one fifth of which in Japan.
- Significant transfer of funds abroad and uncertainty regarding U.K. dividends will have adverse impact on near-term income. However, it is hoped that dividend growth will continue, albeit at more modest pace.

To obtain a copy of the Report and Accounts return this coupon to the Managers and Secretaries, MARTIN CURRIE & CO. CA, 29 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HA.

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Brokers' views

Uncertain outlook in equities

Last week the FT Index of the top thirty companies reached 541.9, its highest level in 22 months, and just 657 short of its all-time high achieved on May 4, 1979.

The question, now being asked by many investors is just how long can the equity market sustain the resilience which has allowed it to achieve lower profits, reduced dividends and a deflationary budget?

In his monthly indicator of the equity market analyst Keith Percy, of brokers Phillips & Drew says that rarely can the medium term outlook for equities have been blurred by so much uncertainty surrounding the success of the Government's policies and such important market variables as sterling and inflation.

Certainly, he adds, the short-term outlook for profits has worsened and share prices look significantly overvalued in terms of p/e ratios. Against this, he argues, equities look reasonably valued compared with long gilt yields and will probably move upwards, if as he believes, long gilt yields decline in the future.

As a result, the upside potential for share prices does not seem large, but the downturn also seems limited unless demands and profits take a turn for the worse.

Brokers Quilter Hilton Goodson reckon that although the Budget came in for strong criticism it was a direct attempt to bring the money supply under control. Furthermore, the economic outlook has not been substantially altered by the Chancellor's measures and it now looks as if the worst of the recession is over and an improvement in company profitability is expected by the end of 1981.

This view, they add, is reinforced by the recent strength of the capital goods market which supports their view that the equity market is likely to continue to perform reasonably strongly for the remainder of the year.

According to brokers Bone Fitzgerald, the gilt market can be justifiably proud of its recent achievement, which saw it process a record amount of stock. A total of £1,400m has been issued, of which the non-bank sector has bought a net £500m.

Even though MLR was cut by five points in the last financial year and the scope for cuts in the new period is likely to be a lot less, longer dated bonds should still provide similar total returns.

Michael Clark

Business appointments
Fisons Fertilizers director

Mr Peter W. Gibbs has joined the board of Fisons Fertilizer Division with responsibility for sales, marketing and distribution. He was formerly the marketing and sales director of Quaker Oats. Mr Clifford E. Deball has become a director of Hinton Hill & Coles (Marine), a subsidiary of the Bilton Hill Group. Mr Terence Higgins, managing director of Bruntingthorpe Gravel and Wainip Gravel, is the new vice-chairman of the Sand & Gravel Association. Mr R. H. Nicholson has been appointed chairman of the Confederation of British Industry Education Foundation in succession to Sir John Partridge who has retired.

A chance to share in \$8 00bn

Tarpon Springs, Florida—American pension funds today have \$800,000m (£360,000m), but it is unlikely that more than 1 or 2 per cent of this massive volume is invested abroad, according to Mr Frederick Horne, a vice-president of the State Street Bank and Trust Company of Boston. He feels that many United States pension funds are now actively searching for international investment advisers.

The opportunities for brokers and banks in London in serving as investment advisers and also as custodians of foreign securities owned by United States pension funds are immense. This was the opinion of a number of administrators of some of the largest pension funds in America that were attending a conference here arranged by the State Street Bank.

Many of the United States funds are becoming so big that diversification of their assets into as many different types of markets as possible is becoming essential. Mr Steven Brock, one of the managers of the pension fund of the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation, said. He noted that few foreign institutions are equipped yet to provide the detailed information and very swift service that they have become used to from their United States advisers and custodians.

The services being developed by Exel in London in the research area are good, but not sufficiently comprehensive, he said. Managers here want to have very complete research on all the companies they invest in.

In just the last few years Mr Brockbank's company has started to investigate abroad and now roughly 10 per cent of its \$3,000m pension fund is invested overseas, with London merchant banks being the chief advisers.

Mr Anthony Albert of the World Bank noted that the bank's pension fund was probably the first United States fund to invest quite heavily in foreign shares and today roughly 20 per cent of the \$450m in the fund is in foreign equities. The bank's portfolio is managed by one firm in London and another in Rotterdam.

The big United States pension funds have developed highly sophisticated systems for watching what their investment advisers do and comparing the performance of their assorted advisers. Some of the pension funds hire and fire advisers with great rapidity. Some are constantly giving small chunks of cash to new advisers to test them.

If British institutions want to move into this field aggressively, then they must expect to be monitored in a tough and direct manner.

The fund managers at this conference suggested that a London firm that could provide good research material,

Briefing

cover all non-United States markets, and consistently secure reasonable performance rates, could do exceptionally well if it developed a marketing programme aimed not at attracting the United States pension funds but at the investment advisers where rich rewards are to be had.

Mr Ronald Golz, a senior vice-president at State Street, is about to go to Europe and Asia in search of institutions which could act as custodians for the foreign securities held by United States pension funds.

State Street acts as custodian for \$62,000m of assets owned by pension funds and mutual funds. It sometimes handles 10 per cent of the business volume on the New York Stock Exchange. It deals with all the paperwork involved in the buying and selling of securities by its fund clients, doing all the valuations and accounting and providing a comprehensive management service.

State Street employs about 600 professionals in its custodian business, and it uses the most sophisticated computers. No British institution operates in the same way, can offer as comprehensive a service or is as mechanized.

But Mr Golz believed that it makes far more sense to seek custodians abroad who intimately know local markets, than for State Street to establish its own overseas custodian operations.

United States Economics Correspondent

Petroleum Exchange to get warm welcome

Whatever you may be seeing from your window, Spring is here in the commodity world, if not the real world. The first of the new crop of seasonally adjusted markets is the International Petroleum Exchange, which opens its trading doors in the old coffee market this morning.

There seems to be general enthusiasm for this new venture. The full complement of 35 floor members has been reached, and the market opens with 22 trade members. Mr Robin Woodhead, chairman of the Exchange, expects that the number of trade members will rise to about 30 by the end of the week.

Interests extend beyond London commodity traders and brokers, however, to a good spectrum of the oil business. Majors—including British Petroleum which is a trade member—and physical oil traders, as well as merchants and the important Rotterdam and Rhine barge traders, will all have busy days fixed on the market's progress.

The main terms of the contract are little changed from those originally proposed. Deals are for a minimum of 100 tonnes of heating oil, denominated in US dollars, with a minimum price fluctuation of 25 cents.

The gas or heating oil, which is called upon you have to deliver, is similar except in its sulphur content to the successful New York contract. But the difference will allow for arbitrage, and it is partly with this possibility in mind that trading hours have been designed to encompass the Rotterdam exchange market and New York.

What has changed, however, is the little matter of the oil market. Physical stocks are very high, chiefly because of a mild winter. Industrial depression, and efforts at conservation. Equally telling is a considerable

Commodities

excess of refining and cracking capacity. Refineries are running at roughly 60 per cent of their potential.

As a consequence of these two factors, the overall market is exhibiting some pretty odd characteristics. The spot crude price is about \$300 a tonne, valuing a London contract at \$300,000. Experience of the last couple of years suggests that the ratio of crude to product prices is about 1:31. On that basis gas or heating oil should be fetching around \$350 a tonne, so futures would trade at a premium to that.

But to behold it is not so. May delivery gas oil in New York was trading at about \$290 on Friday, and September was \$308.50, down from a quote of \$321 at the end of February. Looking to the end of the year, December delivery gas oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange was at \$325.50.

Only heavy fuel oil—the prime beneficiary of the drastic refining cut back—is not at a discount to spot crude.

How lighter products will move in this curious market is a subject of speculation, in every sense of that delicate word. Much depends on whether the oil companies prefer to buy heavy refined products to crack into lighter ones.

There is also the tricky question of why the spot crude price is holding up so strongly. But such a market, however unusual, is probably good news for the IPE. Price movements and the hedging needs of users are essential to create volume.

Michael Prest
Commodities correspondent

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The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge week	Gross Divid.	Yld %	P/E
4,047	Airsprung Group	70xd	+3	6.7	9.6	6.3
1,250	Armstrong & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	2.8	20.6
11,609	Bardon Hill	190	+1	9.7	5.1	7.1
7,539	Deborah Services	98	+3	5.5	5.6	4.9
3,937	Frank Horsell	105	+1	6.4	6.1	3.3
7,223	Frederick Parker	50	+1	1.7	3.4	21.7
1,491	George Blair	70	-3	3.1	4.4	—
2,675	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.0
16,286	James Burrough	118	—	7.9	6.7	9.7
3,264	Robert Jenkins	320	-5	31.3	9.8	—
2,460	Scruttons "A"	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
3,262	Torday Limited	212	-3	15.1	7.1	3.6
2,798	Twinklford Ord	103	+1	—	—	—
1,966	Twinklford 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
7,019	Unilock Holdings	46	—	3.0	6.5	7.1
12,653	Walter Alexander	100	—	5.7	5.7	5.5
6,068	W. S. Yeates	260	+1	13.1	5.0	4.9

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

BARGAINS		
Association of Independent		Date
ALGAESE	Luton 1-2 wks.	30 Apr. 4
WIS	1-2 wks.	May
MALITA	CYPRUS/ a/c, neta, 1/4 in. fits	9-16, 1953
		Apr
SVYS	GRAN VILLA 2 wks.	27 May
KOS	VIKAS/ HOTEL 1-2 wks.	31 May
		May
CORFU	VILLAS 1-2 wks.	May
EDACHO	VILLAS 1-2 wks.	May
	APOLLO TAVERNAS	May 7-28
CORFU	VILLAS 1-2 wks.	May
	TAVERNAS 8 & 14 days	May
	GREEN, SELLING & WIRE SURFING	May 7
		May 7
CORFU	VILLAS 1-2 wks.	May 1 on
VENICE	MOBILE 2 wks.	May 13

FILE	2 wks.	May
MALITA / CYPRUS / w/c, n/a, n/a		9-10 10-23 Apr
SVEN GREEN VILAS Apt.	2 wks.	27 May
KOS Vilas / Hotels File		28 Apr
CORFU Vilas / Apts. 1-2 wks.		May
BEACHCOMBER 1-2 wks.		May
CORFU / Vilas / Apts. Tavernas		May 7 21-28
CORFU Vilas / Tavernas	7 & 14 days	May
GREECE / Selling / wind surfing	2 wks.	May 7
CORFU / Vilas / Apts.	2 wks.	May 1 on
VENICE Nobilis Homes	2 wks.	May on 13

FRENCH RIVIERA
Carcavans 2 wks. May 23
on

COSTA BRAVA
Mobile Homes 2 wks. May 23
on

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